

Filing FCC Form 481: Program Year 2024

High Cost Program
May 23, 2023



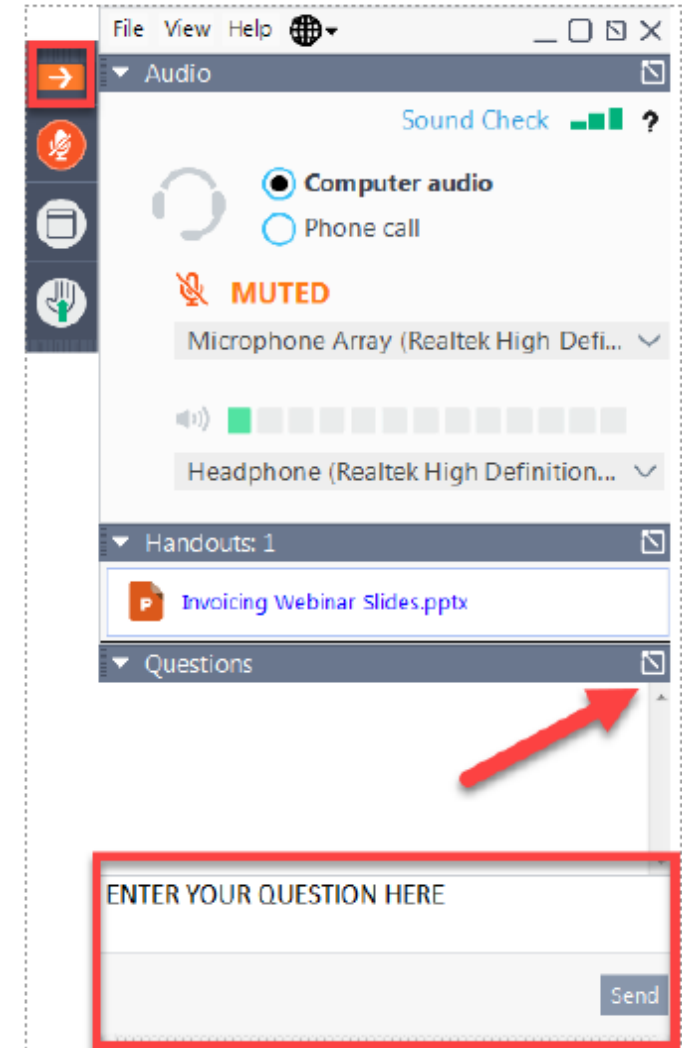
Universal Service
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- If your audio or slides freeze, restart the webinar.
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Today's Speakers

- **Elizabeth Pertsevoi**

Senior Program Analyst | High Cost

- **John Putman**

Communications Specialist | High Cost

Agenda

- FCC Form 481 Overview
- Accessing the System and Creating a Filing
- FCC Form 481 Content
- Supply Chain Certifications
- Fund-Specific Sections
- FCC Form 481 Resources
- Questions

FCC Form 481: Overview

Form 481 Overview: Requirements

- All eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) participating in High Cost and/or Lifeline programs must file Form 481 annually.
- Form 481 collects financial and operational information used to validate carrier support.
 - State utility commissions also rely on Form 481 data to perform the annual certification of ETCs under their jurisdiction to be able to receive High Cost support.
- Among other data, the form gathers information about:
 - Carrier ability to function in emergency situations
 - Holding company, operating companies, affiliates and branding designations
 - Tribal lands engagement
 - Comparability of voice and broadband rates in rural and urban areas
 - Terrestrial backhaul
- Form 481 collects financial reports and audited financial statements from privately held ETCs.
- Form 481 also includes three supply chain certifications.

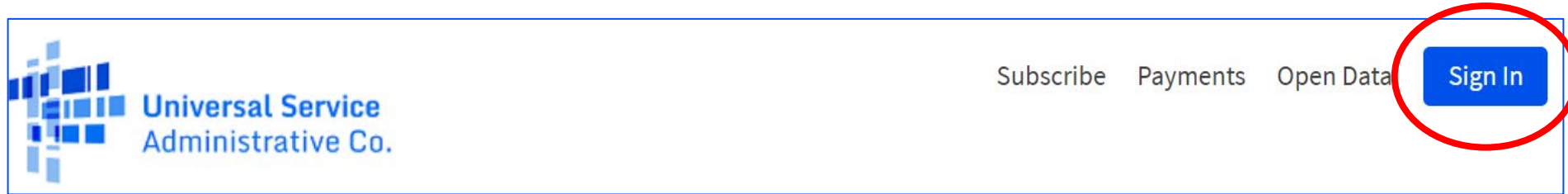
Form 481 Overview: System

- The 481 system was modernized this year. The interface is now similar to the HUBB and PMM systems.
- The 481 system will automatically display only those sections that a carrier is required to complete, based on:
 - Type of carrier (Rate of Return, Price Cap, competitor)
 - Type of support received (CAF II Model, CAF II Auction, ACAM, RBE, etc.)
- The 481 system maintains a downloadable form template.
 - Carriers can download and review completed forms.
 - The form template includes all Form 481 sections. Sections that a carrier does not need to complete will appear blank in the downloaded form.

FCC Form 481: Accessing the System and Creating a Filing

Form 481: Accessing the System

- Carriers can access the Form 481 system through USAC's E-file system
 - E-File is available at <https://forms.universalservice.org/portal/login>.
 - Click "Sign In" at the top of the USAC website (usac.org).



- Users must have a 481 entitlement. The carrier's 498 officer can assign the entitlement.
 - Form 481 SPO (Service Provider Officer): allows the user to enter and certify data.
 - Form 481 SPU (Service Provider User): allows the user to enter but not certify data (typically provided to users inside the carrier).
 - Form 481 SPA (Service Provider Agent): allows the user to enter but not certify data (typically provided to agents outside the carrier).

Form 481: Accessing the System

- If FCC Form 481 is not visible in the High Cost section of the E-File dashboard, the user may not have the necessary entitlement.
- Users should request entitlements from the carrier's 498 Officer.
- Form 498 Officers and/or 498 General Contacts should contact USAC about missing entitlements.

Universal Service Administrative Co.

John.Putman_sj

Dashboard

Upcoming Dates

05/11 2022 [HCF Office Hours Webinar](#)

05/12 2022 [PIA and Selective Review Process Webinar](#)

05/17 2022 [Webinar: Filing the FCC Form 481](#)

[see full calendar](#)

High Cost

FCC Form 481 - The FCC Form 481 collects operational and financial information used to validate carrier support. All carriers that receive High Cost support (with the exception of carriers that only receive Mobility Fund support) must complete the form annually.

FCC Form 690 - The FCC form 690 collects data that USAC uses to validate that the recipient companies are meeting their performance obligations for Mobility Fund support. All carriers that receive Mobility Fund support must complete the form annually.

54.314 Certifications - State utility commissioners complete the 54.314 Certification annually to certify that High Cost support is used by eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) only for the provision, maintenance,

Help?

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Form 481: Creating a Filing

- Use the drop-down menu to search by Carrier Name, Study Area Code (SAC), 498 ID or State.
- Click on the carrier name to advance to the next screen.

Universal Service Administrative Co. FCC Form 481 Sign Out Elizabeth.PertsevoiSPO@usac.org

Bulk Certify

FCC Form 481

Study Area Code (SAC) List

Select a carrier name to see its FCC Form 481 history.

Active 498 IDs Inactive 498 IDs

Displaying 15 of 3,233 records

Carrier Name	SAC	State	498 ID
24 7 Telcom Inc.	339005	WI	143012193

Carrier Name

Form 481: Creating a Filing

- Click “Create 481 Form” to begin the filing.
- Filers can access previously submitted filings by clicking the icon in the Download column.

24 7 Telecom Inc.

State: WI
SAC: 339005
498 ID: 143012193

Form History

Displaying 5 of 10 submission periods

Submission Period	Date Submitted	Filing Period	Filing #	Status	Actions	Download	
2024	04/17/2023	Open	243	Certified - On Time	Revise	↓	+
2023		Closed	14	Saved Not Certified		↓	—
2023		Closed	13	Saved Not Certified		↓	
2023		Closed	12	Saved Not Certified		↓	

Create 481 Form

Form 481: Creating a Filing

- Click “Close” to acknowledge the Paperwork Reduction Act notice.
- Carriers no longer need to select the sections (54.313/54.422) to be completed. The new system will display only the required sections.

×

FCC NOTICE REQUIRED BY THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

Part 54 of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) rules authorize the FCC to collect the information requested in this form. Responses to the questions herein are required to obtain the benefits sought by this form. Failure to provide all requested information will delay processing or result in the form being returned without action. Information requested by this form will be available for public inspection. The data collected in the form will be used to validate the recipient companies' support, if any, that they are eligible to receive from the high-cost support mechanism and/or the Lifeline and Link Up support mechanism. We have estimated that each response to this collection of information will take, on average, 20 hours for a high-cost recipient and 3 hours for a Lifeline-only recipient. Our estimate includes the time to read the instructions, look through existing records, gather and maintain the required data, and actually complete and review the form or response. If you have any comments on this estimate, or on how we can improve the collection and reduce the burden it causes you, please write the Federal Communications Commission, AMD-PERM, Paperwork Reduction Project (3060-0986 and 3060-0819), Washington, DC 20554. We will also accept your comments via the Internet if you send them to pra@fcc.gov. Please DO NOT SEND COMPLETED DATA COLLECTION FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. Remember — you are not required to respond to a collection of information sponsored by the Federal government, and the government may not conduct or sponsor this collection, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number or if we fail to provide you with this notice. This collection has been assigned an OMB control number of 3060-0986 for the high-cost form and OMB control number of 3060-0819 for the Lifeline form.

THE FOREGOING NOTICE IS REQUIRED BY THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995, P.L. 104-13, OCTOBER 1, 1995, 44 U.S.C. § 3507.

Close

FCC Form 481: Form Content

Form 481: Carrier Contact Information

- The first screen collects carrier contact information.
 - Designate the person most familiar with the data submitted.
- Use the section drop-down menu to move between sections.
- Click “Continue” to advance to the next screen.
 - The system will automatically save the filing once “Continue” is selected.

Go to Form Sections:

Filing Type and Contact Info

Filing Type and Contact Info

Filing Type

This information has been preselected based on High Cost and Lifeline program support paid out in the previous calendar year. If you think the filing type is incorrect, [please contact USAC](#).

☒ High Cost (Section 54.313)

☒ Lifeline (Section 54.422)

Contact Information

Include contact information for the person best able to answer questions about this form.

Contact Name (030) **Phone # (035)** **Ext. (optional)**

(xxx) xxx-xxxx

Contact Email Address (039)

[Save and Exit](#) [Validate](#) [Continue](#)

Form 481: Functionality in Emergency Situations

- Section 600 requires carriers to certify to their ability to function in emergency situations.
 - Indicate if the carrier has the ability to function in emergency situations.
 - Attach a document that describes the carrier's ability to meet this requirement.

Functionality in Emergency Situations (600)

Certify

Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations (600)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations (610)

[Choose File](#)

PDF only

[Back](#) [Save and Exit](#) [Validate](#) [Continue](#)

Form 481: Operating Companies

- Section 800 collects information about carrier operating companies and affiliates.
 - The Reporting Carrier should be the name associated with the Study Area Code (SAC) connected to the filing.
 - The holding company name will be pre-populated if USAC has one on file.
 - Operating Company (812) is the name of the corporate operating company.
 - Carriers may attach a file listing any affiliates associated with the SAC completing this form. Affiliates that are designated as ETCs and their SACs, or that provide retail broadband internet access, should be included.

Operating Companies (800)

Carrier Names

Reporting Carrier (810)

Holding Company (811) ⓘ

ACE TEL ASSN-IA

To validate the information listed in (811) please select one of the following

☐ Holding Company/Affiliate name listed above is correct. (811A)


☐ Holding Company/Affiliate name listed above is NOT correct. (811B)

☐ This study area does not have a Holding Company/Affiliate name. (811D)

Carrier Names

Operating Company (812)

Upload Operating Company Data (813) (Optional)

[Operating Company Data Template](#) 

Choose File

CSV only

Back

Save and Exit

Validate

Continue

Form 481: Tribal Lands Reporting

- Section 900 collects information about whether a carrier offers services on Tribal lands.
 - Only line 900 will be visible until a selection is made.
 - If the response is no, the carrier can advance to the next section.
 - If yes, lines 910–929 will appear. Carriers must list the Tribal lands they serve and provide details about carrier engagement with Tribal governments.

Tribal Lands Reporting (900)

Tribal Land Services

Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (900)

☐ Yes ☒ No

[Back](#) [Save and Exit](#) [Validate](#) [Continue](#)

Tribal Land Services

Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (900)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves (910)

Tribal Government Engagement Obligation (920)

[Choose File](#)

PDF only

Confirm Statuses

Select Yes, No, or NA for each of the below to confirm the status described on the attached PDF (920) demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to Section 54.313(a)(5) includes:

Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions (921)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Feasibility and sustainability planning (922)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner (923)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Compliance with Rights of way processes (924)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements (925)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Compliance with Facilities Siting rules (926)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Compliance with Environmental Review processes (927)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes (928)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements (929)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

[Back](#) [Save and Exit](#) [Validate](#) [Continue](#)

Form 481: Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability

- Section 1000 collects certifications that the carrier offers voice and broadband service at rates that are reasonably comparable to average urban rates.
 - Lines 1000 and 1010 collect information about voice rates.
 - Lines 1020 and 1030 collect information about broadband rates.
 - If the answer to line 1000 is Yes, line 1010 will appear to attach a description.
 - If the answer to line 1020 is Yes, line 1030 will appear to attach a description.
 - If the answer to lines 1000 or 1020 is No or Not Applicable, lines 1010 or 1030 will not appear.
- Not all carriers will see both voice and broadband certifications.

Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability (1000)

Certify Voice

Voice Services Rate Comparability Certification (1000)

☒ Yes
 ☐ No
 ☐ Not Applicable

Attach Detailed Description for Voice Services Rate Comparability Compliance (1010)

[Choose File](#)

PDF, XLS, XLSX only

Broadband Comparability Certification (1020)

Select one of the options

☐ Yes - Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by the Wireline Competition Bureau.

☒ Yes - Pricing is no more than the non-promotional price charged for a comparable fixed wireline service in urban areas in the states or U.S. Territories where the eligible telecommunications carrier receives support.

☐ No - Unable to certify broadband rate comparability

☐ Not Applicable.

Attach Detailed Description for Broadband Rate Comparability Compliance (1030)

[Choose File](#)

PDF, XLS, XLSX only

[Back](#)
[Save and Exit](#)
[Validate](#)
[Continue](#)

Form 481: Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting

- Section 1100 collects information about a carrier's terrestrial backhaul.
 - If the carrier has terrestrial backhaul and indicates yes on line 1100, the carrier can move on to the next section.
 - If the answer is no, line 1130 will display. The reporting carrier must confirm that it offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area.

Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting (1100)

Certify

Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N) (1100)

☐ Yes ☐ No

[Back](#) [Save and Exit](#) [Validate](#) [Continue](#)

Certify

Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N) (1100)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g) (1130)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

Form 481: Lifeline Terms and Conditions

- Section 1200 collects the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers. This section will only display if the SAC receives Lifeline support.
- Attach a document to line 1210 and/or enter a link to a public website on line 1220.
- The document and/or website must contain:
 - Terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans
 - Number of minutes provided as part of all plans
 - Additional charges, if any, for toll calls, and rates offered to Lifeline subscribers

Lifeline Terms and Conditions (1200)

Upload Document or Link Website

Upload a descriptive document(s) AND/OR reference a specific link to your company's website.

Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans (1210)

Choose File

PDF only

AND/OR

Link to Public Website(1220)

Confirm Information

Check these boxes below to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to Section 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

☐ Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers (1221)

☐ Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan (1222)

☐ Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan (1223)

Back

Save and Exit

Validate

Continue

Form 481: Validate Filing

- Click the Validate button on the Validate Filing screen to confirm the filing is complete.
 - If all required data has been submitted, the system will provide confirmation and the Continue to Certify button will become available.
 - The validate button at the bottom of each section may be used to validate that particular section.
- The system will not allow the officer to continue to certification until any missing information is provided.

Validate Filing

✓ No errors detected in this filing. Your filing is eligible to be certified. Please proceed to the 'Certifications' screen to complete the certify process.

Select **Validate** to check your filing for any errors.

Validate

Back

Save and Exit

Continue to Certify

Form 481: Certify Filing

- Carriers can certify by individual SAC. Bulk certification is not yet available (coming soon).
- In addition to the supply chain certifications included last year, there is an additional supply chain certification starting this year. (More in next section of presentation)
 - Officers will indicate yes or no to certify compliance with these rules.
 - If a carrier indicates that it is not in compliance, an additional line will appear for the carrier to attach a copy of the FCC waiver or pending waiver request.
- Click the boxes under Accuracy Certifications to affirm the accuracy of the filing.
- Enter the officer's name and title under Signature, and click the box to acknowledge that the digital signature is equivalent to a physical signature.
- Click "Certify" to complete the filing.

Certifications

Supply Chain Certifications

Section 54.9: Prohibition on the Use of Funds

I certify, under penalty of perjury that no universal service support has been, or will be used to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, or otherwise support any equipment or services produced or provided by any company designated by the Federal Communications Commission as posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain since the effective date of the designations.

If **No** is selected, a waiver is required for each SAC which is not certified.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Section 54.10: Prohibition on the Use of Certain Federal Subsidies

I certify that no federal subsidy made available through a program administered by the Commission that provides funds to be used for the capital expenditures necessary for the provision of advanced communications services has been or will be used to purchase, rent, lease, or otherwise obtain, any covered communications equipment or service, or maintain any covered communications equipment or service previously purchased, rented, leased, or otherwise obtained, as required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.10.

If **No** is selected, a waiver is required for each SAC which is not certified.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Section 54.11: Requirements to Remove and Replace

Answer yes or no if you are participating in the reimbursement program and the removal, replacement, and disposal were not supported. If the reporting 11C does not use covered communications equipment or services published on the Covered List, as required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.11.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Accuracy Certifications

Certify

☐ I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier, my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients, and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.

☐ I understand that making willful false statements in any part of this report and/or in these certifications is punishable by fine or imprisonment pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Sections 4105(a), 4205(b)(1)(B), and 48 U.S.C. Section 1005.

Signature

Officer Name

Title

☐ I understand this is a digital signature, and is the same as if I signed my name with a pen.

[Back](#)

[Save and Exit](#)

[Certify](#)

Form 481: Confirmation

- Upon successful certification, the Certification Confirmation screen will appear.
- A copy of the confirmation will be sent via email to the officer who certified.

Certification Confirmation


✔ Congratulations, you have successfully certified.

A confirmation email will be sent to the email address on record for your user ID. Please email USAC at HCCERTS@usac.org if you do not receive this email within 24 hours.

Date and Time: 04/21/2023 01:53 PM

Certified By: Elizabeth.PertsevoiSPO@usac.org

 Print

Carrier Name	SAC	498 ID	Filing #
24 7 Telcom Inc.	339005	143012193	245
Program Year	Filing Type	Download	
2024	Low Income (54.422)		

Return Home

FCC Form 481: Supply Chain Certifications

Supply Chain Report and Order Overview

Service providers must submit annual supply chain certifications to USAC for each USF program in which they participate.

- The FCC issued the *Protecting the Communications Supply Chain Order* (FCC 19-121) in November of 2019. This order adopted 47 CFR **Section 54.9**, which:
 - States: “No universal service support may be used to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, modify, or otherwise support any equipment or services produced or provided by any company posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain.”
 - Creates a process for the FCC’s Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) to designate companies subject to this prohibition.
- Section 54.9 went into effect on Jan. 3, 2020, and applies to all USF programs.
- In June of 2020, the PSHSB designated Huawei and ZTE as companies subject to the prohibition in Section 54.9.
- Carriers began certifying compliance with Section 54.9 on Form 481 on April 1, 2021.

Supply Chain Report and Order Overview

- The FCC issued the *Supply Chain Second Report and Order* (FCC 20-176) in December of 2020. This order adopted 47 CFR **Section 54.10**, which:
 - Prohibits the use of any “federal subsidy made available through a program administered by the Commission that provides funds to be used for the capital expenditures necessary for the provision of advanced communications service” to “purchase, rent, lease, or otherwise obtain any covered communications equipment or services” or “maintain any covered communications equipment or services previously purchased, rented, leased, or otherwise obtained.”
 - All USF programs are subject to this prohibition.
- Whereas Section 54.9 applies only to communications equipment and services produced or provided by Huawei or ZTE (as designated by the PSHSB), Section 54.10 applies to any communications equipment or services on the Covered List.
- The FCC released the initial Covered List (DA 21-309) in March of 2021.
 - The list included telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei, ZTE, Hytera, Hangzhou Hikvision and Dahua.
- Carriers began certifying compliance with Section 54.10 on Form 481 on April 1, 2022.

Supply Chain Report and Order Overview

- The FCC updated the Covered List ([DA 22-320](#)) on March 25, 2022, to include international telecommunications services provided by China Mobile International USA, Inc., and China Telecom (Americas) Corp., and information security products, solutions, and services supplied by AO Kaspersky Lab.
- The FCC updated the Covered List again ([DA 22-979](#)) on September 20, 2022, to include international telecommunications services provided by Pacific Network Corp and ComNet (USA) LLC, and China Unicom (Americas) Operations Limited.

Supply Chain Report and Order Overview

- *The Supply Chain Second Report and Order* also adopted 47 CFR **Section 54.11**, which:
 - Requires ETCs to submit a certification confirming that they do not use covered communications equipment or services in their networks.
 - “Covered communications equipment or services” are defined as any communications equipment or service that is both on the Covered List and defined in the 2019 Supply Chain Order, or designated by the process established in Section 54.9 of the FCC rules and designated by the PSHSB.
 - This currently means all communications equipment and services produced or provided by Huawei and ZTE.
- Carriers began certifying compliance with Section 54.11 on Form 481 on April 1, 2023.
- Participants in the Supply Chain Reimbursement Program – which reimburses carriers for reasonable expenses incurred in the removal, replacement, and disposal of prohibited network communications equipment and services - are not subject to this rule until after the applicable removal, replacement and disposal term expires.

Supply Chain Certifications in Form 481

- Service providers will see the following supply chain certifications included in the annual FCC Form 481 filing:
 - **Section 54.9:** I certify under penalty of perjury that no universal service support has been or will be used to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, modify, or otherwise support any equipment or services produced or provided by any company designated by the Federal Communications Commission as posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain since the effective date of the designations.
 - **Section 54.10:** I certify that no Federal subsidy made available through a program administered by the Commission that provides funds to be used for the capital expenditures necessary for the provision of advanced communications services has been or will be used to purchase, rent, lease, or otherwise obtain, any covered communications equipment or service, or maintain any covered communications equipment or service previously purchased, rented, leased, or otherwise obtained.
 - **Section 54.11:** Answer yes or no (I am participating in the reimbursement program and the removal, replacement, and disposal term has not expired) if the reporting ETC does not use covered communications equipment or services published on the Covered List.
- These certifications affirm compliance with the Sections 54.9, 54.10 and 54.11 prohibition on the use of USF support to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, modify, operate, manage, or otherwise support equipment or services produced or provided by covered companies.
- **USAC conducts Supply Chain audits to verify carrier compliance with these rules.**

FCC Form 481: Fund Specific Sections

Form 481: Price Cap Data

- Section 2005 collects compliance certifications from Price Cap carriers. Only Price Cap carriers will see this section.
- Frozen High Cost Support recipients must certify that they used all support received in the previous year to build and operate broadband-capable networks used to offer retail broadband in areas substantially unserved by an unsubsidized competitor in accordance with 47 CFR Section 54.313(c)(4).
- Connect America Intercarrier Compensation (ICC) support recipients must certify that they used support received in the prior calendar year to build and operate broadband-capable networks used to offer service in areas substantially unserved by an unsubsidized competitor in accordance with 47 CFR Section 54.313(d).

Price Cap Data (2005)

Certify

Select the appropriate responses below to note compliance as a recipient of frozen High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions set forth in 47 CFR 54.313(c),(d). The information reported on this form is accurate.

Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification (2015)

Does this carrier certify compliance with the requirements in 47 CFR Section 54.313(c)(4)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support (2016)

Does this carrier certify compliance with the requirements in 47 CFR Section 54.313(d)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

[Back](#)[Save and Exit](#)[Validate](#)[Continue](#)

Form 481: Rate of Return Data

- Section 3005 collects financial data and certifications from Rate of Return carriers. Only Rate of Return carriers will see this section.
- Carriers can submit Rural Utilities Services (RUS) reports, balance sheets, income statements and statements of cash flows on Line 3013 and below.
- Carriers must enter the specific values required under Financial Data Summary at the bottom of the screen.

Rate of Return Data (3005)

Certify

Select from the drop down menus or check the boxes below to note compliance with 54.313(f)(1). Privately held carriers must ensure compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Does this filing retain a Cost Consultant and/or Firm, or other Third Party to prepare financial and operations data disclosures submitted to the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA), USAC, or the Administrator? (3007)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Certification of Public Interest Obligations (3010A)

Does the carrier certify compliance with the requirements in 47 CFR Sections 54.313(f)(1)(i)?

☐ Yes - Attach Explanation ☐ No - Attach Explanation
☐ Not Applicable - No Attachment Required

Rate-of-Return Community Anchor Institutions (3012A)

Indicate if the carrier newly deployed broadband service to community anchor institution(s) in the previous calendar year.

☐ Yes - Attach New Community Anchors ☐ No - No New Community Anchors
☐ Not Applicable - No Attachment Required

As defined in 47 CFR Section 54.313(f)(2), is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier? (3013)

☐ Yes ☐ No

[Back](#) [Save and Exit](#) [Validate](#) [Continue](#)

Does your company file the RUS annual report? (3014)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Is your company audited? (3018)

☐ Yes ☒ No

If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:

☐ Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers (3022)

☐ Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant (3023)

☐ Underlying information subjected to an officer certification (3024)

☐ Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows (3025)

Worksheet Listing (3026)

[Choose File](#)

PDF, XLS, XLSX, DOC, DOCX only

Financial Data Summary

Enter the specified financial data below which is located on your RUS Report (attached on Line 3017) or your reviewed/audited financial statements (attached on Line 3026).

Revenue (3027)

Operating Expenses (3028)

Net Income (3029)

Telephone Plant In Service (TPIS) (3030)

Total Assets (3031)

Total Debt (3032)

Total Equity (3033)

Dividends (3034)

[Back](#) [Save and Exit](#) [Validate](#) [Continue](#)

Form 481: Rural Broadband Experiment Data

- Section 4005 collects required data from carriers receiving Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) support. Only carriers receiving RBE support will see this section.
- This section requires carriers to certify that they offer broadband service that meets the required public interest obligations established by the FCC, including:
 - Required speed
 - Latency and usage capacity
 - Rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for similar offerings in urban areas

Rural Broadband Experiment Data (4005)

Certify

Public Interest Obligations (4001)

Per FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29 and 78), recipient certifies that it is offering broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas.

☐ Yes

☐ No

RBE Community Anchor Institutions (4003A)

Indicate if the carrier newly deployed broadband service to community anchor institution(s) in the previous calendar year.

☐ Yes - Attach New Community Anchors

☐ No - No New Community Anchors

[Back](#)[Save and Exit](#)[Validate](#)[Continue](#)

Form 481: Alaska Plan Participants

- Section 5005 collects required data from carriers receiving Alaska Plan support. Only Alaska Plan carriers will see this section.
- Rate of Return carriers must indicate whether they have terrestrial backhaul.
- Alaska Plan competitive carriers must:
 - Report any newly available terrestrial or other satellite backhaul.
 - If Yes, line 5013 will appear to upload details.

Alaska Plan Participants (5005)

Certify Terrestrial Backhaul

Newly Available Terrestrial or other Satellite Backhaul (RoR Carriers) (5011)

Indicate whether any terrestrial backhaul or other satellite backhaul became commercially available in the previous calendar year in areas previously served exclusively by performance-limiting satellite backhaul.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Upload Backhaul Technology Data (5013A - 5013C)

[Backhaul Data Template](#) CSV

Choose File

CSV only

Back

Save and Exit

Validate

Continue

Form 481: Phase II Auction Reporting

- Section 6005 collects required data from carriers receiving CAF Phase II Auction support. Only carriers receiving CAF II Auction support will see this section.
- Carriers must indicate whether their CAF II Auction-funded network met relevant performance requirements in the prior year.
- Carriers should select Not Applicable when asked if they submit bids to provide Category One telecom and/or internet access services in response to Form 470 postings for schools or libraries seeking service (line 6013). (Requirement to bid not active yet)

Phase II Auction Reporting (6005)

Certify
Enter the total amount of Phase II Auction Support, if any, the carrier used for capital expenditures.
(6010)

Dollars

Phase II Auction and New York Funds Certification (6011)
Phase II Auction and New York recipient performance requirements certification

☐ Yes ☐ No

Phase II Auction Community Anchor Institutions (6012a)
Phase II Auction Community Anchor Institutions

☐ Yes - Attach New Community Anchor ☐ No - No New Community Anchor

Phase II Auction FCC Form 470 Postings (6013)
For the filing due July 1 following full implementation of this requirement answer yes, no, or not applicable to this certification request.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

Phase II Auction Post-Final Deployment Milestone Performance Certification (6014)
Starting the first July 1st after meeting the final service milestone, certify (yes, no, or not applicable) that the Phase II funded network that the Phase II auction recipient operated in the prior year meets the relevant performance requirements in § 54.309.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

[Back](#) [Save and Exit](#) [Validate](#) [Continue](#)

Form 481: Phase-Down Support Reporting

- Section 7005 collects required data from carriers receiving Frozen High Cost phase-down support. Only carriers receiving phase-down support will see this section.
- Carriers must indicate whether they used all phase-down support received in the previous year to provide voice service throughout the high-cost and extremely high-cost census blocks where they have ETC designation.
- ETCs must provide voice service in high cost areas at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for similar offerings in urban areas.

Phase-Down Support Reporting (7005)

Certify

Price Cap Carrier and Fixed Competitive Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Transitional Support Requirement Certification. (7010)

This certification request applies to any price cap carrier or fixed competitive eligible telecommunications carrier that elects to continue receiving support pursuant to Section 54.312(d) or Section 54.307(e)(2)(iii) starting July 1, 2020, and annually thereafter on July 1 for each subsequent year they receive such support. These carriers must use this support throughout specific high-cost and extremely high-cost census blocks where they continue to have the federal high-cost ETC obligation to provide voice service pursuant to Section 54.201(d) at rates that are reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas. Per Section 54.313(m), does the carrier certify that they used all such support received in the previous year to provide voice service in compliance with the above obligation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Back

Save and Exit

Validate

Continue

Form 481: Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification

- Section 8005 collects required data from carriers receiving Uniendo a Puerto Rico fixed and mobile support. Only carriers receiving Uniendo a PR support will see this section.
- Carriers receiving **fixed** support must:
 - Report amount of support used for capital expenditures.
 - Certify to the availability of funds.
 - Report newly deployed service to community anchor institutions.
 - Select Not Applicable when asked if they submit bids to provide Category One telecom and/or internet access services in response to Form 470 postings for schools or libraries seeking service (Line 8013). (Requirement to bid not active yet)

Puerto Rico Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification (8005)

Certify Fixed

Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2 Fixed - Capital Expenditures (8010)

Enter the total amount of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2 fixed support, if any, the carrier used for capital expenditures.

\$xxx

Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2 Fixed - Available Funds Certification (8011)

Certify (either yes or no) regarding whether 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 1 after receiving support until the recipient's penultimate year of support.

☐ Yes
 ☐ No

Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2 Fixed - Community Anchor Institutions (8012A)

Indicate if the carrier newly deployed broadband service to community anchor institution(s) in the previous calendar year.

☐ Yes - Attach New Community Anchors
 ☐ No - No New Community Anchors

Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2 Fixed - FCC Form 470 Postings (8013)

For the filing due July 1 following full implementation of this requirement answer yes, no, or not applicable to this certification request.

☐ Yes
 ☐ No
 ☐ Not Applicable

Form 481: Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification

- Carriers receiving **fixed** support must certify:
 - Starting the first July 1 after meeting the final service milestone, that the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2-funded network operated in the prior year offers broadband service with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to offerings in urban areas, at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates in urban areas in accordance with 47 CFR Section 54.309.
 - That they did not use USF support for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support.
 - That they have conducted an annual review to determine the need for and/or changes to their disaster and recovery plan.

Puerto Rico Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification (8005)

Certify Fixed

Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2 Fixed - Post-Final Deployment Milestone Performance Certification (8014)

Starting the first July 1 after meeting the final service milestone, certify (yes or no) that the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2-funded network that the Stage 2 recipient operated in the prior year meets the relevant performance requirements in Section 54.309.

☐ Yes
 ☐ No
 ☐ Not Applicable

Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2 Fixed - Support Reimbursement Certification (8020)

54.313(n): Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 fixed support shall certify that such support was not used for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support, including of federal or local government aid or insurance reimbursements; and that support was not used for other purposes, such as the retirement of company debt unrelated to eligible expenditures, or other expenses not directly related to network restoration, hardening, and expansion consistent with the framework of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund.

☐ Yes
 ☐ No

Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2 Fixed - Disaster Preparedness and Response Documentation (8030)

54.313(n): Recipients of fixed support from Stage 2 of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund shall certify that they have conducted an annual review of the documentation required by section 54.1515(a)-(c) to determine the need for and to implement changes or revisions to disaster preparation and recovery documentation.

☐ Yes
 ☐ No

[Back](#)
[Save and Exit](#)
[Validate](#)
[Continue](#)

Form 481: Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification

- Carriers receiving **mobile** support must certify:
 - That they did not use USF support for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support or used contrary to FCC Rules.
 - That they have conducted an annual review to determine the need for and/or changes to their disaster and recovery plan.
 - That they are in compliance with all FCC requirements to continue receiving Stage 2 disbursements.

Puerto Rico Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification (8005)

Certify Mobile

Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2 Mobile - Support Reimbursement (8040)

54.313(n): Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 mobile support shall certify that such support was not used for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support, including of federal or local government aid or insurance reimbursements; and that support was not used for other purposes, such as the retirement of company debt unrelated to eligible expenditures, or other expenses not directly related to network restoration, hardening, and expansion consistent with the framework of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2 Mobile - Disaster Preparedness and Response Documentation (8050)

54.313(n): Recipients of mobile support from Stage 2 of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund shall certify that they have conducted an annual review of the documentation required by section 54.1515(a)-(c) to determine the need for and to implement changes or revisions to disaster preparation and recovery documentation.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2 Mobile - Mobile Disbursements Certification (8060)

54.313(o): Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 mobile support shall certify that they are in compliance with all requirements for receipt of such support to continue receiving Stage 2 mobile disbursements.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Form 481: Connect USVI Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification

- Section 9005 collects required data from carriers receiving Connect USVI fixed and mobile support. Only carriers receiving Connect USVI support will see this section.
- Carriers receiving **fixed** support must report:
 - The amount of support used for capital expenditures and availability of funds.
 - Whether they met relevant performance requirements in the prior year.
 - Whether they provide service to community anchor institutions.
- Carriers receiving **fixed** support should select Not Applicable when asked if they submit bids to provide Category One telecom and/or internet access services in response to Form 470 postings for schools or libraries seeking service (Line 9013). (Requirement to bid not active yet)

Connect USVI Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification (9005)

Certify Fixed

Connect USVI Stage 2 Fixed - Capital Expenditures (9010)

Enter the total amount of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 fixed support, if any, the carrier used for capital expenditures.

\$K

Connect USVI Stage 2 Fixed - Available Funds Certification (9011)

Certify (either yes or no) regarding whether 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 1 after receiving support until the recipient's penultimate year of support.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Connect USVI Stage 2 Fixed - Community Anchor Institutions (9012A)

Indicate if the carrier newly deployed broadband service to community anchor institution(s) in the previous calendar year.

☐ Yes - Attach New Community Anchors ☐ No - No New Community Anchors

Connect USVI Stage 2 Fixed - FCC Form 470 Postings (9013)

For the filing due July 1 following full implementation of this requirement answer yes, no, or not applicable to this certification request.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

Form 481: Connect USVI Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification

- Carriers receiving **fixed** support must certify:
 - Starting the first July 1 after meeting the final service milestone, that the Connect USVI Stage 2-funded network operated in the prior year offers broadband service with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to offerings in urban areas, at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates in urban areas, in accordance with 47 CFR Section 54.309.
 - That they did not use USF support for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support or for other purposes not directly related to network restoration, hardening and expansion.
 - That they have conducted an annual review to determine the need for and/or changes to their disaster and recovery plan.

Connect USVI Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification (9005)

Certify Fixed

Connect USVI Stage 2 Fixed - Post-Final Deployment Milestone Performance Certification (9014)

Starting the first July 1 after meeting the final service milestone, certify (yes or no) that the Connect USVI Fund Stage 2-funded network that the Stage 2 recipient operated in the prior year meets the relevant performance requirements in Section 54.309.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

Connect USVI Stage 2 Fixed - Support Reimbursement Certification (9020)

54.313(n): Recipients of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 fixed support shall certify that such support was not used for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support, including off federal or local government aid or insurance reimbursements; and that support was not used for other purposes, such as the retirement of company debt unrelated to eligible expenditures, or other expenses not directly related to network restoration, hardening, and expansion consistent with the framework of the Connect USVI Fund.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Connect USVI Stage 2 Fixed - Disaster Preparedness and Response Documentation (9030)

54.313(n): Recipients of fixed support from Stage 2 of the Connect USVI Fund shall certify that they have conducted an annual review of the documentation required by section 54.1515(a)-(c) to determine the need for and to implement changes or revisions to disaster preparation and recovery documentation.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Form 481: Connect USVI Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification

- Carriers receiving **mobile** support must certify:
 - That they did not use USF support for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support or contrary to FCC rules.
 - That they have conducted an annual review to determine the need for and/or changes to their disaster and recovery plan.
 - That they are in compliance with all FCC requirements to continue receiving Stage 2 mobile disbursements.

Connect USVI Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification (9005)

Certify Mobile

Connect USVI Stage 2 Mobile - Support Reimbursement (9040)

54.313(n): Recipients of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 mobile support shall certify that such support was not used for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support, including of federal or local government aid or insurance reimbursements; and that support was not used for other purposes, such as the retirement of company debt unrelated to eligible expenditures, or other expenses not directly related to network restoration, hardening, and expansion consistent with the framework of the Connect USVI Fund.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Connect USVI Stage 2 Mobile - Disaster Preparedness and Response Documentation (9050)

54.313(n): Recipients of mobile support from Stage 2 of the Connect USVI Fund shall certify that they have conducted an annual review of the documentation required by Section 54.1515(a)-(c) to determine the need for and to implement changes or revisions to disaster preparation and recovery documentation.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Connect USVI Stage 2 Mobile - Mobile Disbursements Certification (9060)

54.313(o): Recipients of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 mobile support shall certify that they are in compliance with all requirements for receipt of such support to continue receiving Stage 2 mobile disbursements.

☐ Yes ☐ No

[Back](#)[Save and Exit](#)[Validate](#)[Continue](#)

Form 481: Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Reporting

- Section 10005 collects information from Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) recipients. Only RDOF carriers will see this section.
- RDOF participants must report:
 - Total amount of support used for capital expenditures.
 - Availability of funds.
 - Whether they provide service to community anchor institutions.
- Carriers should select Not Applicable when asked if they submit bids to provide Category One telecom and/or internet access services in response to Form 470 postings for schools or libraries seeking service (Line 10013). (Requirement to bid not active yet)
- Starting the first July 1 after a RDOF recipient meets its final service milestone until the July 1 after the support recipient's support term has ended, carriers must certify that the RDOF-funded network operated in the prior year offers broadband service with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to offerings in urban areas, at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates in urban areas, in accordance with 47 CFR Section 54.309.

Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Reporting (10005)

Certify RDOF

RDOF Capital Expenditures (10010)

Starting the first July 1 after receiving support until the July 1 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. This is required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.313(e)(2)(ii)(B).

30561.46

RDOF Available Funds Certification (10011)

Please provide a response (either yes or no) to this certification request for any recipient of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support 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 1 after receiving support until the recipient's penultimate year of support, as required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.313(e)(2)(ii).

☐ Yes ☐ No

RDOF Community Anchor Institutions (10012A)

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. This filing is required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.313(e)(2)(ii)(A).

☐ Yes - Attach New Community Anchors ☐ No - No New Community Anchors

RDOF FCC Form 470 Postings (10013)

For the filing due July 1st following full implementation of this requirement, please provide a response (either yes, no, or not applicable) 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 Section 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 filing is required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.313(e)(2)(ii)(C). 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 15530, 15566-67, para. 72 (2014).

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

RDOF Post-Final Deployment Milestone Performance Certification (10014)

Starting the first July 1st after a Rural Digital Opportunity Fund recipient meets its final service milestone until the July 1st after the support recipient's support term has ended, please provide a response (either yes, no, or not applicable) 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. Section 54.309. This filing is required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.313(e)(2)(ii)(i).

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

[Back](#) [Save and Exit](#) [Validate](#) [Continue](#)

FCC Form 481: Resources

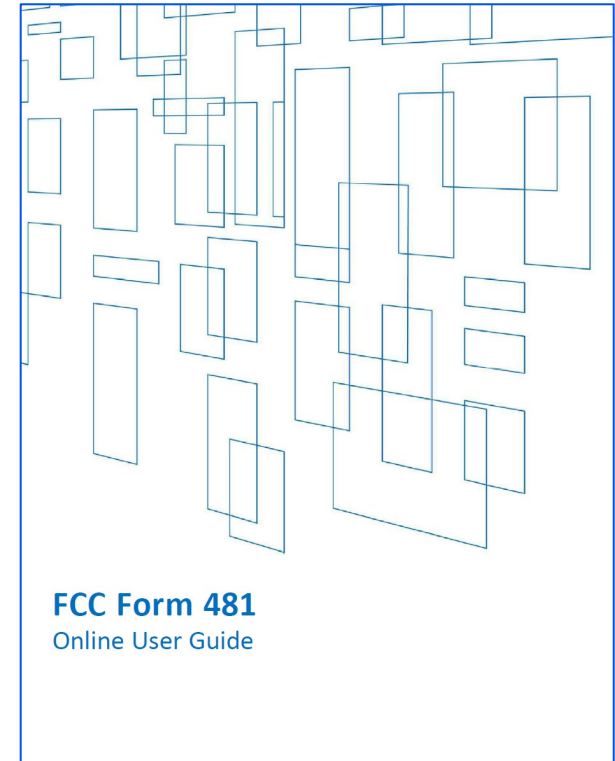
Form 481 Resources

- Resources to help carriers complete Form 481 include:
 - User Guide
 - Filing Guide
 - Upload Templates

www.usac.org/high-cost/resources/forms-and-filing-deadlines

Form 481 Resources: User Guide

- Steps to start a new filing or complete a pre-existing filing
- Information on how to populate the form, including:
 - How to navigate the system
 - Overview of each line item and possible answers
 - Instructions on how to attach files
- Instructions on how to certify a filing



Form 481 Resources: Filing Guide






- The Filing Guide provides notes and associated rules for each section.

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

Form 481 Resources: Upload Templates

- Use templates to provide required data on certain sections.
- Rate of Return carriers may use the 3005 template to submit financial data, but this is not required.

FCC Form 481 Templates

- [200 Service Outages Upload Template](#) 
- [800 Operating Company Upload Template](#) 
- [3005 Rate of Return Data Upload Template](#) 
- [Community Anchor Institution Upload Template](#) 
- [5005 Alaska Plan Upload Template](#) 

Form 481 Resources: High Cost Support Center

1-844-357-0408

HCQuestions@USAC.org

Questions?



Universal Service
Administrative Co.