

## 2025 499-A Annual Training

Getting Started February 6, 2025



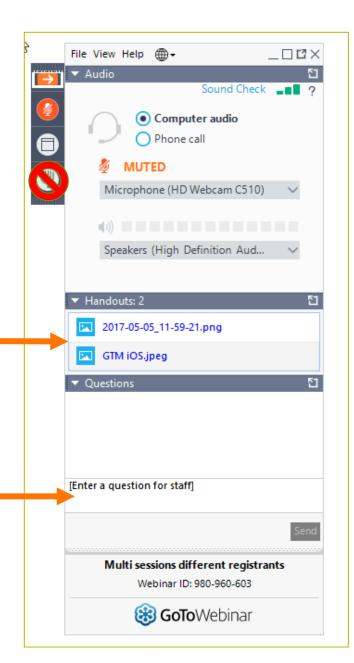
#### **DISCLAIMER**

To accommodate all attendees, real-time closed captions will be present during this presentation. We apologize in advance for any transcription errors or distractions. Thank you for your support.

## Housekeeping

- The audience will remain on mute.
- If your audio or slides freeze, restart the webinar.
- A copy of the presentation is in the 'Handouts' section of webinar panel.

• Enter questions at any time using the 'Questions' panel.



## **Webinar Recordings**

Please be aware that this webinar is being recorded.

A copy of the recorded webinar, along with a copy of the presentation will be available on the Service Provider's 'Webinars' webpage within two days.

Future webinars are also posted on the webpage as well as their registration link. At the beginning of each quarter, all webinars scheduled for that quarter will be posted.

#### **Meet Our Presenter**

#### **Amy Kavelman**

Senior Telecom Industry Analyst | Contributor Operations

Ms Kavelman is a member of the 499 team that analyzes revenue reported on the FCC Form 499-A. Amy also develops and delivers most of the 499 training. She has worked at USAC for 14 years. Raised in central Illinois, she moved to the Washington DC area in 1997.

Email: Amy.Kavelman@usac.org

## **Webinar Overview**

In this webinar, designed for all E-File users, we will review common topics associated with filing the annual form.

The annual filing (FCC Form 499-A) is a required filing for all 499 Filer IDs.

The deadline to file is April 1, 2025.

## **Agenda**

- Purpose of the Annual Form
- Revenue Reporting
- Accessing E-File
- Action Item List
- Annual Form Training Schedule
- Contact Us

## **Purpose of the FCC Form 499-A**

#### 2025 FCC Form 499-A - Annual Form

- The 2025 FCC Form 499-A will be available March 1, 2025.
- All companies registered with a 499 Filer ID must file, regardless of their revenue level.
- This form reports the annual revenues for calendar year 2024.

• All active filers will be notified via email address of active users that the form is ready. Please make sure that your current email address is in E-File.

(a good way to confirm is that you receive a monthly invitation to our webinars. If you don't, then we don't have your current email address)

#### **Purpose of the Annual Form**

A company reports their actual historical revenues on the FCC Form 499-A.

The 2025 FCC Form 499-A reports actual revenues from calendar year 2024.

USAC uses the revenue numbers on the 2025 FCC Form 499-A and compares them to the projected revenue from the quarterly FCC Forms 499-Q.

- November 2023 Filing (1Q24 estimate)
- February 2024 Filing (2Q24 estimate)
- May 2024 Filing (3Q24 estimate)
- August 2024 Filing (4Q24 estimate)

### **Annual True-Up**

If the company's projected revenues for calendar year 2024, reported on the FCC Forms 499-Q, were **too high**, USAC will calculate your credit.

The company 'contributed' too much over the year.

If the company's projected revenues were **too low**, USAC will calculate a "true-up charge" to make up for the contribution deficit.

The company didn't contribute enough over the year.

These charges/credits will appear on the company's July invoice from USAC.

## **Gather Materials**

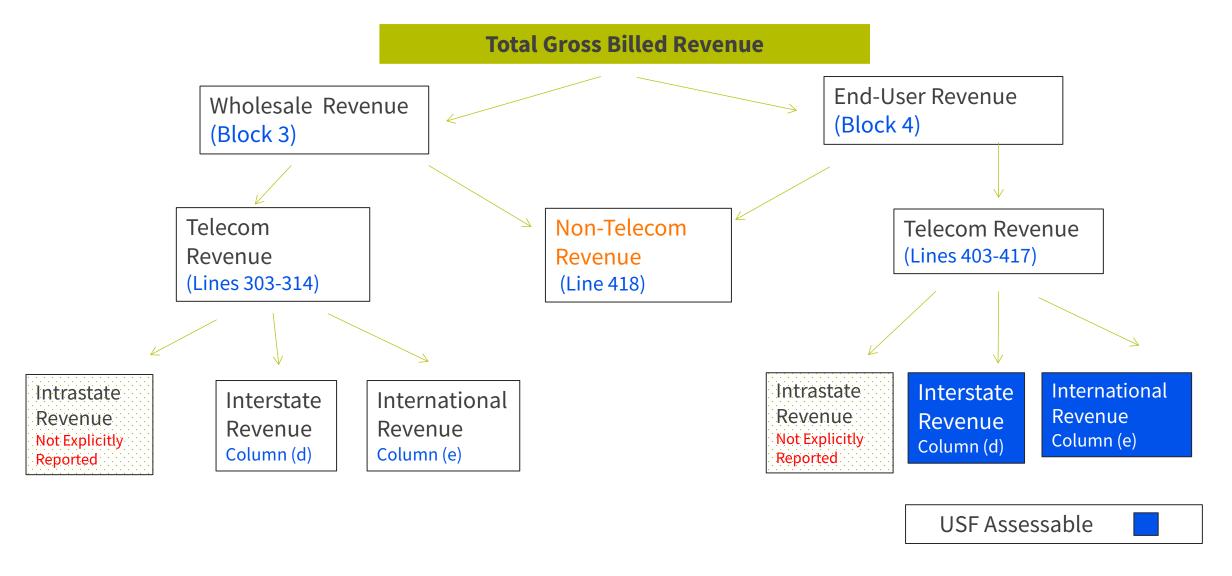
#### **Information Needed**

All information used should be saved and readily available for USAC if asked for review.

- Revenue reports for calendar year 2024
  - Detailed sales by product
  - Federal and state universal service fees collected from end users
  - USF funding received (if applicable)
- Traffic studies or CDRs used in calendar year 2024
- Reseller Certificates signed in calendar year 2024

## Wholesale vs End User Block 3 vs Block 4

## **FCC Form 499-A Revenue Reporting**



#### **Block 3 vs Block 4**

#### **Block 3: Carrier's Carrier Revenue Information**

Revenue from sale of services to contributing service providers.

#### **Block 4: End User and Non-Telecommunications Revenue Information**

Revenue that does not qualify for Block 3 is reported in Block 4.

- End users are the final consumer of the service.
- Reseller revenue with de minimis amounts of interstate and international end user revenues. (These companies are not direct contributors).
- All other revenues, non-telecommunications in nature.

#### **Definition of a Reseller**

Any filer reporting revenue in Block 3 of the FCC Form 499-A must demonstrate that the reseller meets both parts of the reseller definition.

- 1. Purchasing service(s) for resale, at least in part, and incorporating the purchased services into its own offerings which are, at least in part, assessable U.S. telecommunications or interconnected VoIP service; and
- 2. Either directly contributing or have a reasonable expectation that another entity in the downstream chain of resellers directly contributes to the federal universal service support mechanisms on the assessable portion of revenue from offerings that incorporate the purchased services.

The reseller's 499 Filer ID must be active.

Resellers attest to this definition by signing a Reseller Certificate. Certificates must be submitted annually. It is the responsibility of the wholesale carrier to request and collect these certificates.

#### **Reseller Certificate Template**

USAC | Service Providers | Resources | Forms & Instructions | USAC-Designed Forms and Templates

Resources

Forms  $\wedge$ 



**Prior Year Forms** 

USAC-Designed Forms and Templates

**Upcoming Dates** 

Announcements

Quick Links

Glossary of Terms

Appeals and Audits

Multi-Factor Authentication

# USAC-Designed Forms and Templates

Paper forms and templates designed to help gather information that is not found on an FCC Form. Follow instructions on each form for submission requirements.

Credit Balance Refund	Who Must File				
Credit Balance Refund Form 🚾	Use this form to request USAC refund your company's credit balance  Learn more				
FUSF Reseller Certification Template  FUSF Reseller Certification Template	Who Must File  Wholesale carriers can use this template to get information from resale customers regarding their FUSF (federal Universal Service Fund) contributions  Learn more				

Certificates developed by the filer are acceptable as long as they meet the requirements outlined in the FCC Form 499-A instructions, pages 38 & 39.

### **Certificate Exemptions**

The following categories of revenues reported in Block 3 do not require a reseller certificate.

Category of Revenue	499-A Line #
Per-minute switched access charges and reciprocal compensation	Line 304
Revenues received from carriers as payphone compensation for originating toll calls	Line 306
Charges for physical collocation of equipment pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 251(c)(6)	Line 307
Revenues that filers receive as universal service support from either states or the federal government	Line 308
Revenues received from another U.S. carrier for roaming service provided to customers of that carrier	Line 309

## Questions?

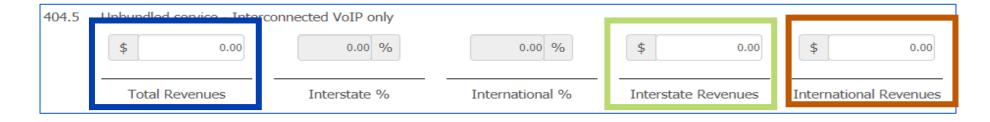
# Reporting Revenues Interstate and International

#### **Reporting Revenues by Jurisdiction**

All revenue is entered using the same methodology. Enter the total revenue in the far-left hand box, and then break out the interstate and the international. The percentages will be calculated after entering the revenue.

Jurisdiction is based upon traffic; the originating and terminating points of the final product.

Revenues from services offered under interstate tariffs should be identified as interstate revenues. (i.e. SLC & LNP)



**Total Revenue** [Column (a)] = Intrastate Revenue + Column (d) + Column (e) Enter **interstate** revenue in Column (d) Enter **international** revenue in Column (e)

#### **Methods Used to Determine Jurisdiction**

#### 1. Call detail records (CDRs)

This is truly the most accurate. If you can get these records and analyze, you should do so.

#### 2. Traffic studies

By nature, less accurate. We'll discuss the requirements on the next slide.

#### 3. Safe Harbor percentages outlined by the FCC

Interconnected and Non-Interconnected VoIP Safe Harbor

Interstate revenues associated with Lines 303.2, 311, 404.4, 404.5, 414.2 and 418.4.

• 64.9% of interconnected VoIP and non-interconnected VoIP telecommunications revenue

#### Wireless Safe Harbor

Interstate revenues associated with Lines 309, 409 and 410.

- 37.1% of cellular and broadband PCS telecommunications revenues
- 12.0% of paging revenues
- 1.0% of analog SMR dispatch revenues

#### **Traffic Studies**

- Filers may use traffic studies to determine the amount to attribute to interstate, and international revenue.
- Traffic studies must meet the following requirements (page 42 on instructions):
  - Traffic studies must be designed to produce a margin of error of no more than one percent with a confidence level of 95%
  - If a non-random sample is used (one example of this is a stratified sample) the traffic study should be described and an explanation provided as to why the non-random technique doesn't result in a biased sample
  - Traffic studies should include at least an explanation of the sampling and estimation methods used and an explanation of why it results in an unbiased result
- Email your 2024 traffic studies that support your revenues reported on the 2025 FCC Form 499-A to the address <a href="Form499@usac.org">Form499@usac.org</a> at the same time you submit your Form 499-A.

#### **Use of Safe Harbors**

- Safe harbor percentages can not be applied to universal service pass-through charges, fixed local, or itemized toll charges. All filers must report the actual amount of interstate and international revenues for these services.
- All affiliated wireless telecommunications providers, interconnected and non-interconnected VoIP
  providers must make a single (same) election for each type of safe harbor.
- Filers should use the same methodology (e.g. traffic study or safe harbor) to report interstate and international jurisdictions on the FCC Form 499-A as used on the FCC Form 499-Qs to forecast revenue in each quarter of the applicable calendar year.

#### **Data Entry Using Safe Harbor Percentage**

To enter revenues using the safe harbor percentage, enter the total service revenue in the 'Total Revenues' box.

The system does not allow you to enter a % in the 'Interstate %' box.



On your calculator, take the amount of total revenue you entered and multiply by .371 (Cellular Safe Harbor %) and enter the resulting answer in the 'Interstate Revenues' box.

You'll then see the 'Interstate %' box auto populate with the 37.1%.

## Questions?

# **Data Entry in E-File**

#### **2025 Form Availability**

#### Currently, the 2025 FCC Form 499-A is NOT online in E-File.

It will be available on March 1, 2025.

Remember! All FCC Forms 499 must be submitted online.

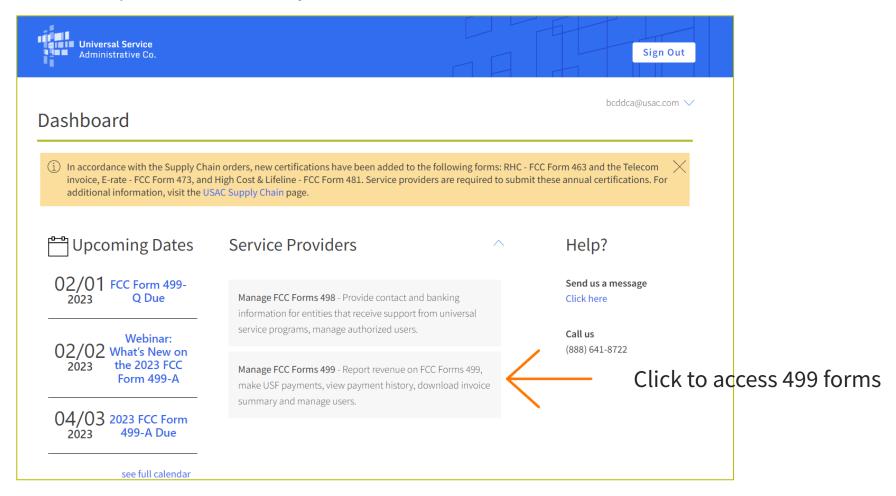
USAC's online system, E-File, will display data entry screens, guiding the user through reporting the revenue on the form.

Only users with E-File access to the 499 Filer ID can complete the form.

#### **Navigate to the 499 Screens**

Once logged in to E-File, the new service provider portal will appear. Only systems in which you have authorization to access will appear.

In this example, the user can only access the 498 ID and the 499 Filer ID.

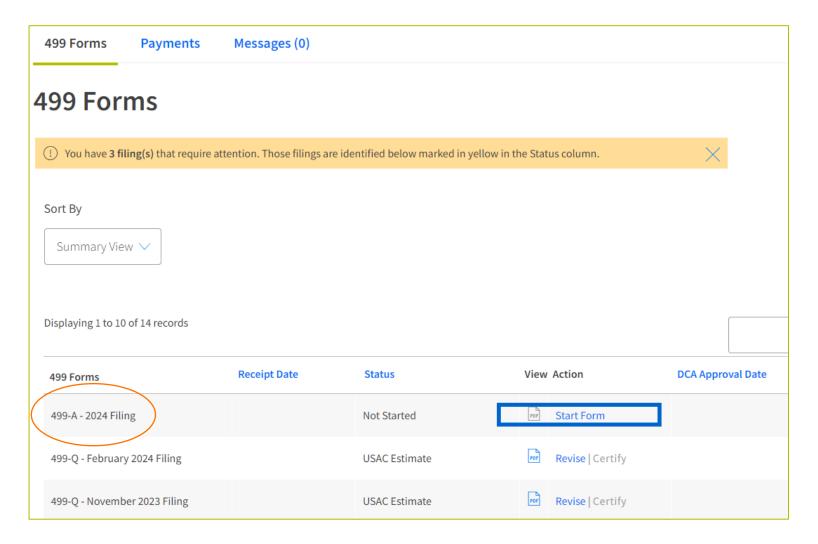


#### **Start or Open the Annual Form**

To start the FCC Form 499-A, select 'Start Form' from the row containing the FCC Form 499-A.

NOTE: for purposes of this training, this screen shot is from last year's training. The form is not available in E-File yet.

The 2025 form will become available in E-File on March 1.

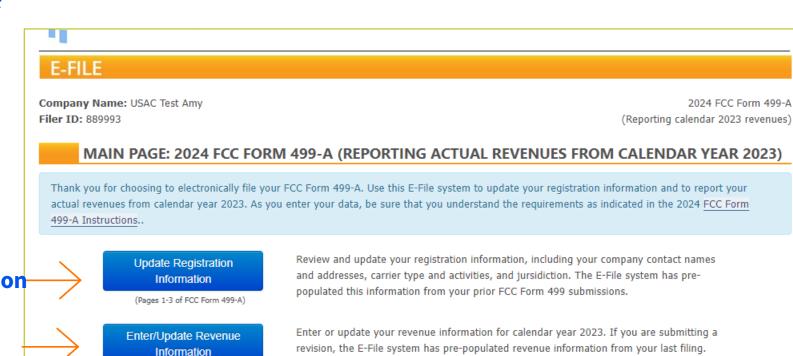


## **Annual Form - Main Page**

Main page for completing of the FCC Form 499-A in E-File.
There are two areas of the annual form that require attention.

Registration Information

**Revenue Reporting** 



#### **Submitting the Form**

(Pages 4-8 of FCC Form 499-A)

Throughout the data entry process, the E-File system will conduct validations of your data and will advise you of any issues it detects. The "Review and Certify My Filing to USAC" button will be enabled only when any identified issues have been resolved.

Save & Close Form

Review & Certify My Filing to USAC

#### **Registration Information Summary**

Information reported in registration section

Company identification

Telecommunications services offered

Holding company/affiliates

**Customer contact information** 

Form preparer contact information



USAC billing contact information

List of company officers

States where services are sold

As a result of the discontinuance of paper invoices, all billing contacts must be verified this year. This requires a registered E-File user associated with the 499 Filer ID.

Please add those contacts now.

Please review this information is correct when submitting the FCC Form 499-A. While the information is pre-populated from last year's form, take a moment to review for accuracy.

Service providers can update this information at any time during the year by submitting a revision.

#### **Registration Information Summary**

E-FILE Contributor Identification

#### REGISTRATION INFO

Telecommunications Activities Holding Company Customer Inquiries Preparer Contact Future Filing Contact Billing Contact Agent for Service of Process Company Officers Filer Jurisdiction

#### DOCUMENTS

Form 499-A Instructions

Registration Summary

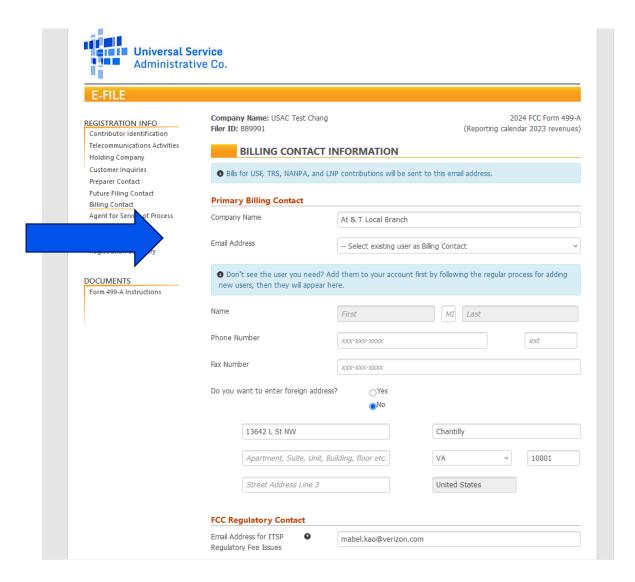
ompany Name: USAC Test Amy	2024 FCC Form
iler ID: 889993	(Reporting calendar 2023 rev
REGISTRATION INFORMATION SUMMARY	non-
Below please find all of the registration sections of the FCC Form	including your company contact
names and addresses, carrier type and activities, and jurisdiction. The E-F	
information from your prior submissions. As you review to eat your date	
requirements as indicated in the 2024 FCC Form 4.32. Instructions	-, ,
Click here for more information about Manager through this section.	
Click here for more information about the mavigate through this section.	
<b>⊗Success!</b> This section is complete.	
-	
elecommunication Activities	
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<b>♥Success!</b> This section is complete.	
olding Company	
<b>⊗Success!</b> This section is complete.	

2024 FCC Form 499-A Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet (Reporting 2023 Revenues)						ROVED BY OMB					
									3060-0855		
				se read instru				<<<			
Annual Filing due April 1, 2024											
		1: Contributor Identification	Dung		rs must refil	e Block	ks 1, 2	2 and 6 if	f there are any changes in Lines 10	4 or 112. See Instructions.	
101			umber, contact the administrator at (888) 641-8								
102		ou are a new filer, write "NEW" in t al name of filer	his block and a Filer 499 ID will be assigned to	you.]		+					
103		employer identification number				[I	Enter 9	9 digit m	umber]		
104		ne filer is doing business as	Select up to 5 boxes that best describe the repo		F 1			24. 65122.4	1 1 1 6		
105				orung entity. □ CAP/CLE		ers star	ung w		•		
		Audio Bridging (teleconferencing) P			-		^		Cellular/PCS/SMR (wireless tele		
		Coaxial Cable	☐ Incumbent LEC	☐ Interconne	cted VoIP	35	1.		Interexchange Carrier (IXC)	Local Reseller	
		Ion-Interconnected VoIP	☐ Operator Service Provider	□ Paging		<b>7</b> 2.			Payphone Service Provider	☐ Prepaid Card	
	□P	rivate Service Provider	☐ Satellite Service Provider	☐ Shared-Te		Provi	der/E	Building	LEC	SMR (dispatch)	
	ПΤ	oll Reseller	☐ Wireless Data	Other Loc	4				Other Mobile	☐ Other Toll	
		ther Local, Other Mobile or Other T	foll is checked	•	0						
	desc	cribe carrier type / services provided	: ny Name (All affiliated companies must show t	~3X							
106.1	Affi	iliated Filers Name/Holding Compa	ny Name (All affiliated companies must show t	h. Ame nam	e on this line	2.)	Che	eck if fi	ler has no affiliates □		
106.2			ny Name IRS employer identification number				Ent	ter 9 dig	it number]		
107			s://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do]				l_				
100	[For assistance, contact the CORES help desk at 877-480-3201 or CORES@fcc.gov]  Management company [if filer is managed by another entity]				En	ter 10 di	git number]				
108		nagement company (11 filer 15 mana) mplete mailing address of reporting 6		C							
109	Con	mpiete mailing address of reporting e	entity corporate headquarters	Street1 Street2							
				Street3							
				City			Sta	ite	Zip (postal code)	Country	
110	Con	nplete business address for customer	r inquiries and complaints	Street1							
				Street2							
			check if same address as Line 109				C+-		7:- (+11-)	C	
111	T-1-		ints and inquiries [Toll-free number if availab	City			Sta	ite	Zip (postal code) - ext -	Country	
112			ears in providing telecommunications. Include		which you a	ne kno	own by	v custom			
	a	The same state of the same pass of the same state of the same stat	ter province recommendations.	tar manes of	g			CHISTOLIS			
	ь				h						
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	e				k						
	f				1						
	Use additional sheets if necessary. Each filer must provide all names used for telecommunications activities										
PERSONS MAKING WILLFUL FALSE STATEMENTS IN THE WORKSHEET CAN BE PUNISHED BY FINE OR IMPRISONMENT UNDER TITLE 18 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE, 18 U.S.C. § 1001								8 U.S.C. § 1001			

#### **Billing Contact Update Required**

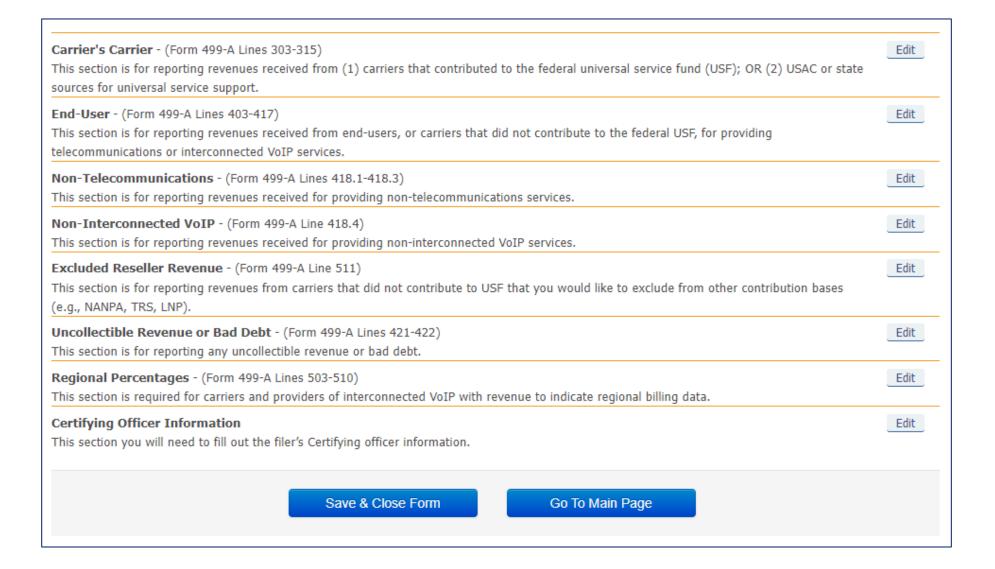
On the 2025 FCC Form 499-A, all filers will be directed to select an email address for the billing contact.





# **Entering Revenue Information**

### **Revenue Reporting Sections**



### E-FILE

Company Name: USAC Test Amy Filer ID: 889993 2019 FCC Form 499-A (Reporting calendar 2018 revenues)

### **CARRIER'S CARRIER REVENUE**

In this section, report: (1) revenues from telecommunications services sold to other carriers; and the service support.

For questions below regarding revenue "from carriers that contribute to USF", the carrier's customer must (1) incorporate the purchased telecommunications services into its own telecommunication of finings and (2) be reasonably expected to contribute to the federal universal service support mechanisms based on revenues from such off 0.3s when provided to end users. FCC Form 499-A Instructions.

#### Fixed Local Services

Did you receive any revenues for providing **fixed local** service for resale - **from carriers that contribute to USF**(see above)?

YES - Click here

NO - Continue to next question

#### Per-minute charges for originating and terminating calls

Did you receive any revenues from carriers for the origination or termination of calls?

YES - Click here

NO - Continue to next question

#### **Private Line & Business Data Services**

Did you receive any revenues for providing **private line and business data** service for resale - **from carriers that contribute to USF (see above)?** 

YES - Click here

NO - Continue to next guestion

#### **Payphone Services**

Did you receive any payphone compensation from long distance carriers?

YES - Click here

NO - Continue to next question

#### **Other Local Telecommunication Services**

Did you receive any revenues for providing **other local telecommunicatons service** for resale - **from carriers that contribute to USF (see above)?** 

ES - Click here

NO - Continue to next question

#### **Universal Service Support Funding**

Did you receive any **universal service funding** from either state sources or from USAC for high cost or low income support?

YES - Click here

NO - Continue to next question

#### Mobile Services (i.e., wireless telephony, paging, messaging, and other mobile services)

Did you receive any revenues for providing: 1) **mobile** service for resale - **from carriers that contribute to USF** (see above); OR 2) other carriers with **roaming** service for its customers - **from carriers that contribute to USF** (see above)?

YES - Click here

NO - Continue to next question

#### Long Distance Services

Did you receive any revenues for providing any long distance services (i.e., operator assisted calls, ordinary long distance, private line, satellite, other long distance) for resale - from carriers that contribute to USF (see above)?

YES - Click here

NO - Continue to next question

Save & Return to Summary

Save & Continue

Expand A



### **Revenue Data Entry**

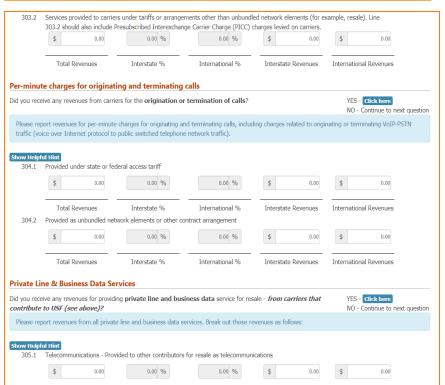
Placed side by side, you'll see that the online data entry screen does not look like the paper form.

2019 FCC Form 499-A Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet (Reporting 2018 Revenues)					Page 4	
Block 3: Carrier's Carrier Revenue Information						
301 Filer 499 ID [from Line 101]						
302 Legal name of filer [from Line 102]						
Report billed revenues for January 1 through December 31, 2018.		If breakouts are not book		Breakouts		
Do not report any negative numbers. Dollar amounts may be rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. However, report all amounts as whole dollars.	Total	amounts, enter whole percentage estimates		Interstate Revenues	International Revenues	
See instructions regarding percent interstate and international.	Revenues (a)	Interstate (b)	International (c)	(d)	(e)	
Revenues from Services Provided for Resale as Telecommunications by Other Contributors to Federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms  Fixed local service						
Monthly service, local calling, connection charges, vertical features, and other local exchange service including subscriber line and						
PICC charges to IXCs Provided as unbundled network elements (UNEs)						
303.2 Provided under other arrangements						
Per-minute charges for originating or terminating calls Provided under state or federal access tariff						
304.2 Provided as unbundled network elements or other contract arrangement						
T and advant line & business data annulus						

Upon opening a revenue section, the data entry boxes will not appear.

Click the 'Expand All' selection at the bottom of the screen in order for all data entry fields to be displayed.

### Company Name: USAC Test Amy 2019 FCC Form 499-A Filer ID: 889993 (Reporting calendar 2018 revenues) CARRIER'S CARRIER REVENUE In this section, report: (1) revenues from telecommunications services sold to other carriers; and (2) revenue received from USAC or state sources for For questions below regarding revenue "from carriers that contribute to USF", the carrier's customer must (1) incorporate the purchased telecommunications services into its own telecommunications offerings and (2) be reasonably expected to contribute to the federal universal service support mechanisms based on revenues from such offerings when provided to end users. FCC Form 499-A Instructions. **Fixed Local Services** Did you receive any revenues for providing fixed local service for resale - from carriers that contribute to USF (see above)? NO - Continue to next question Please report revenues for monthly service, local calling, connection charges, vertical features, and other local exchange service including subscriber line and PICC charges to IXCs. Please report your revenues from all local exchange services that should be included with the basic local service revenues. Break out these revenues as follows: 303.1 Provided to carriers as unbundled network elements (UNEs) 0.00 % 0.00 % Total Revenues International % 303.2 Services provided to carriers under tariffs or arrangements other than unbundled network elements (for example, resale). Line



### **Revenue Data Entry**

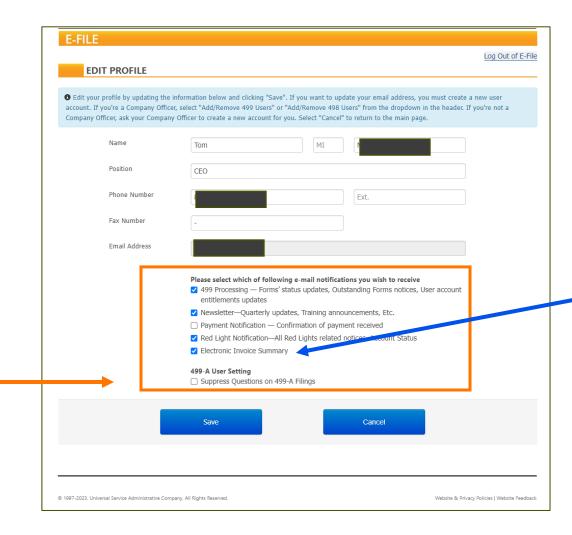
After clicking the 'Expand All', every section is expanded and the corresponding line numbers that reference the paper form are displayed.

There's a lot of lines, so use the scroll bar on the right-hand side of the screen to scroll through all of the data entry questions.

### **Suppress Data Entry Guiding Questions**

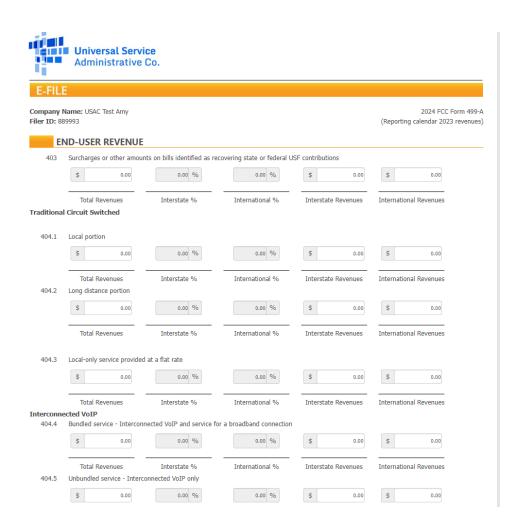
Users have the option to 'turn off' the guided questions in the annual form data entry program, leaving just the revenue line numbers for data entry.

In the upper right-hand corner, click on the down arrow next to your username. Select 'Edit Profile' and this screen will appear.



Users should also confirm that email notifications are turned on for receiving email notification that the online invoice has been posted.

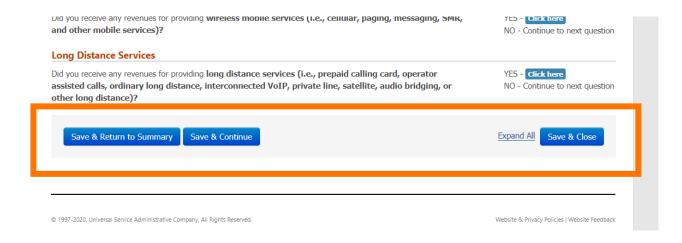
## **Data Entry Questions Removed**

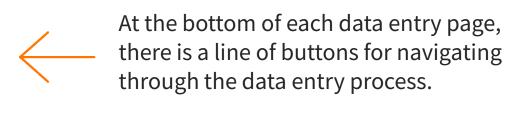


The screen that is a result of suppressing the annual form questions displays only the line number and revenue fields for data entry.

It does not fit on one screen, so you'll have to use the scroll bar to move through the screen.

## **Data Entry Page Navigation**





Save & Return to Summary

Save & Continue

Save & Continue

Save & Close

## Questions?

## **Certify & Submit**

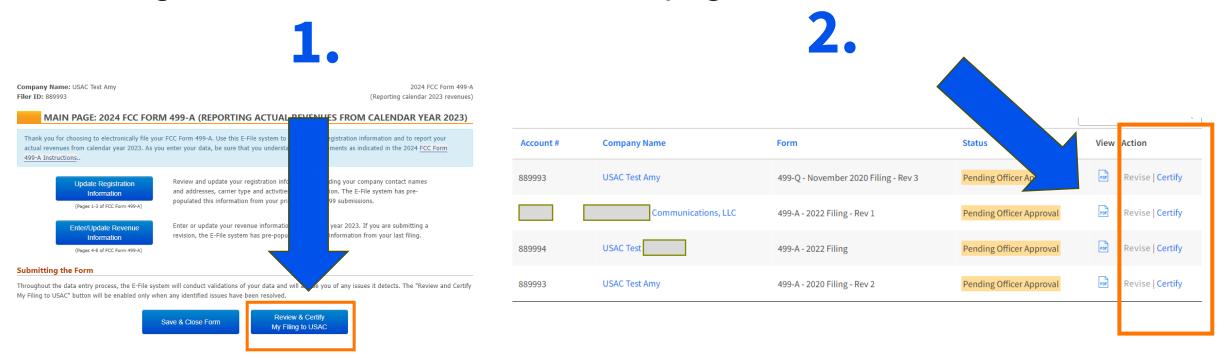
Complete the FCC Form 499-A Form

## **Certify and Submit**

Once the data entry is complete on the FCC Form 499-A, USAC does not consider it submitted until a Company Officer electronically signs (certify) and submits the form.

## E-File preparers cannot submit the FCC Form 499-A, only a Company Officer can.

E-File gives the officer two methods for certifying forms.



## **What Happens Next**

USAC Review of the FCC Form 499-A Form

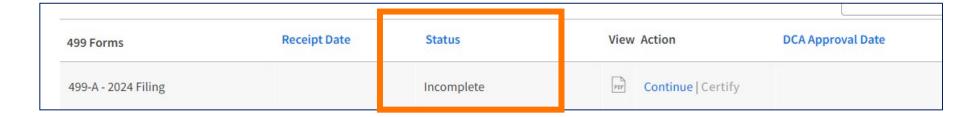
### **USAC's Review of the Annual Forms**

- USAC runs a program to review for discrepancies and revenue fluctuations.
- If the Form is not auto-approved, a 499 analyst will review the form.

Analysts are assigned a 499 Filer ID number range to review.

- ~ over 6,000 active 499 Filer IDs and 5 analysts
- Review may take 3 months to complete, dependent upon volume.
- If the analyst finds an issue, we'll send the preparer an E-File message outlining what the issue is.
   Please respond to the message within the Message Portal.
- If the analyst requests copies of supporting documentation, please email to 'Form499@usac.org'.
- If after 90 days the issue goes unresolved, the account will be flagged as non-compliant.

### **Common Form Statuses**



### Certified

Waiting for USAC to review – no action required by filer

### DCA Approved

Form has been approved by USAC – no action required by filer

### Issue - Response Required

• An issue email was sent to the preparer that requires attention. Reply to the message within the Message Portal. If supporting material is requested, email to 'Form499@usac.org'.

## **Action Items**

Steps to Take to Prepare for the Annual Filing

### **Action Items**

- ☐ Gather revenue reporting data
  - List of reports found on slide 13.
- ☐ Add user to E-File for the billing contact
  - Only a company officer can add users, directions in this <u>video</u>.
- Verify E-File user profile notification preferences
  - Data entry question suppression and invoice notifications described on slide 40
- ☐ Print paper copy of <u>499-A form</u> to prepare 'draft' (optional)
  - New filers should familiarize themselves

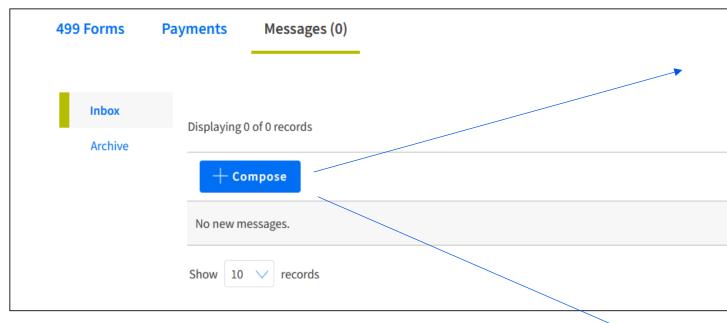
## Questions?

## Annual Form Webinar Schedule Registration Link on Date

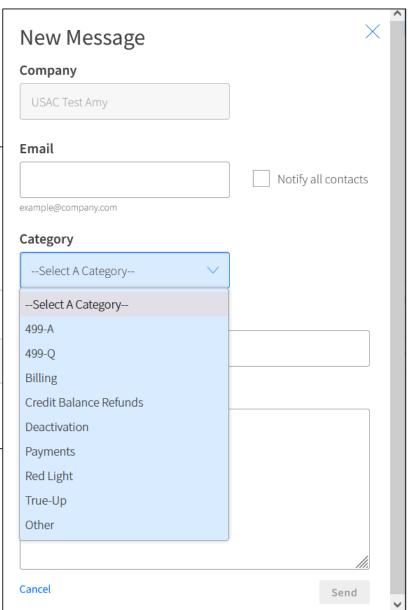
- <u>February 6</u> Getting Started
- <u>February 11</u> VoIP Providers and Resellers
- March 6 Access to E-File
- March 18 Updating Registration Information
- March 20 Reporting Wholesale Revenue (Block 3)
- March 25 Reporting End User Revenue (Block 4)
- March 27 Reporting Regional Percentages and Certification of Form

## **Contacting USAC**

## **E-File Message Portal**



Send a message to the Service Provider team directly through the Message Portal in E-File



# **Contributors/Service Providers Customer Service Center** (CSC)



Call us at (888) 641-8722

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET



**Email:** CustomerSupport@usac.org

- Include in your email
  - 498 ID/Service Provider ID Number (SPIN)
  - 499 Filer ID

Contact the CSC for issues relating to login, error messages and other technical problems.

Available for Public Use

