

**PENDING ACTIONS:** The MPUC is considering policies to establish local competition. Currently, they have a statewide rate that doesn't vary, but with local competition they will have deal with US issues. Defining basic service is beyond scope of the current docket. They are considering an access element that would maintain current geographic cross-subsidies in order to keep rates at current levels. Anyone who competes where costs are higher will get a subsidy, and anybody who competes where costs are lower will contribute. NYNEX just went through a rate case for an alternative form of regulation. This may lead to a decrease in residential toll rates, and a small increase in basic rates.

**COMMENTS:** Most people in Maine have telephone service -- rates are stable and there are few complaints. But change in competition may cause rates to change. Universal access approach allows for access to advanced information services. They have a special program for hearing impaired who get a 70% reduction in intrastate toll calls.

## **ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

**Programs to access video/cable services:** No cable companies have applied for certification.

**Programs to access advanced information services:** There are library and school programs to provide access to Internet. NYNEX rate case included improving infrastructure to provide access in Internet. NYNEX was ordered to reduce rates by \$14M per year, with \$4M per year earmarked for education. State has objective to provide affordable access to AIS. The Maine Telecommunications and Information Technology Planning Project has issued its final draft report and recommendations. A General Fund Bond Issue for \$15M has been authorized to expand telecommunications capabilities and student learning opportunities in Maine schools. The establishment of a Maine statewide Free-Net, MaineCAN, is under discussion.

**Programs for electronic access to public/government records:** The state has WWW page, and a number of initiatives under way, and a State Information Service Policy Board to address this issue. They also are setting up kiosks throughout state for job bank information and driver licenses. The PUC hosts a homepage with access to state and federal resource materials.

**Public/private partnerships:** A toll agreement was reached with NYNEX (they expect independent companies to follow shortly) to provide schools and libraries with substantial savings.

## **1995 NTIA/TIIAP GRANTS**

**The University of Maine System.** This grant is designed to reduce disparities in access to telecommunications in several different rural regions of the state. The end result will be a statewide "network of networks", including school districts, universities and colleges, libraries, hospitals and rural health clinics, municipal governments, courts and legal aid organizations, economic development agencies, and state government departments (Total \$1,731K, Federal \$850K).

# MARYLAND

**Contact:** Ann Dean, Regulatory Economist  
Maryland Public Service Commission  
6 St. Paul St., 19th Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-6806  
(410) 767-8053 Fax: (410) 333-6495

## STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Population:** 4,965,000  
**Size:** 12,297  
**Proportion rural:** 18.7%  
**Population per sq. mile:** 507.9  
**Median household income:** \$37,287  
**Percent below poverty:** 11.6%  
**Percent on public assistance:** 6.0%

## OPASTCO STUDY

**Subscribers per sq. mile:** 77.1  
**Difference in non-BOC loop costs:**  
**Monthly revenues per customer:**  
**Revenues if supports eliminated:**  
**Percent who would disconnect:**

## ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Cable households:** 62.0%  
**Cable in schools:** 65.0%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Number of lines:** 2,860,375  
**Number of LECs:** 2  
**BOC:** Bell Atlantic  
**Market share of BOC:** 99.8%  
**Penetration Rate:** 95.5%  
**LEC competition permitted:** 1994

## TELEPHONE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

**Copper :** Yes      **Hybrid Fiber:** No  
**Fiber :** Yes      **Microwave:** Yes  
**Percent local loop digital:** 100%  
**Other Technology:**

## TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES

**BOC residential rate (s):** \$9.52 -11.17  
**LEC residential rates:** to

## UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Status of State Universal Service Program:** No statute, regulations, or commission orders mandating Universal Service (US)

**Targeted Groups:** None

**Definition of basic service:** None

**STATE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND:** No

**Fund Administrator:**

**Contributor:**

**Basis for contribution:**

**Types of subsidies:**

**Who draws from fund:**

**Is subsidy portable:**

**FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS:** Lifeline: Yes Link Up: Yes High Cost: No

**PENDING ACTIONS:** US may be a commission case in future due to local competition, but not now. Bell will be filing to go under price cap, and more companies will be entering into residential service.

**COMMENTS:** US hasn't been a problem before, but it may be now with deregulation.

## **ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

**Programs to access video/cable services:** Commission doesn't regulate cable, but some cable companies may apply for certification. Maryland has a Video Distance Learning initiative to connect community/junior colleges, high schools, and cultural institutions for distance learning.

**Programs to access advanced information services:** This may become an issue but not now.

**Programs for electronic access to public/government records:** With the Maryland Electronic Capital project, the state is establishing the infrastructure to allow state, county, and municipal governments, as well as the private sector, to share resources and information., with an emphasis on citizen access.

**Public/private partnerships:**

## **1995 NTIA/TIAP GRANTS**

**Goodwill Industries International, Inc.** will create a support network for other social service organizations to communicate with each other and their clients. It will also provide an opportunity for clients to receive training in the use of information technology (Total \$599K, Federal \$245K).

# MASSACHUSETTS

**Contact:** Jaime Dalmeida, Telecommunications Analyst  
Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities  
100 Cambridge St., Room 1209  
Boston, Massachusetts 02202  
(617) 727-8627 Fax: (617) 723-8812

## STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Population:** 6,012,000  
**Size:** 9,241  
**Proportion rural:** 15.7%  
**Population per sq. mile:** 767.1  
**Median household income:** \$36,558  
**Percent below poverty:** 10.0%  
**Percent on public assistance:** 7.5%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Number of lines:** 3,714,730  
**Number of LECs:** 5  
**BOC:** NYNEX  
**Market share of BOC:** 99.9%  
**Penetration Rate:** 96.2%  
**LEC competition permitted:** 1986

## OPASTCO STUDY

**Subscribers per sq. mile:** 91.6  
**Difference in non-BOC loop costs:** 41.2%  
**Monthly revenues per customer:**  
**Revenues if supports eliminated:**  
**Percent who would disconnect:**

## TELEPHONE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

**Copper :** Yes      **Hybrid Fiber:** No  
**Fiber :** Yes      **Microwave:** No  
**Percent local loop digital:** 6.95%  
**Other Technology:**

## ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Cable households:** 76.0%  
**Cable in schools:** 80.0%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES

**BOC residential rate (s):** \$16.85  
**LEC residential rates:** to

## UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Status of State Universal Service Program:** No statutes, regulations, or commission orders mandating Universal Service (US)

**Targeted Groups:** None

**Definition of basic service:** Unlimited calling within the local exchange calling area and within municipalities

**STATE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND:** No

**Fund Administrator:**

**Contributors:**

**Basis for contribution:**

**Types of subsidies:**

**Who draws from fund:**

**Is subsidy portable:**

**FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS:** Lifeline: Yes Link Up: Yes High Cost: Yes

**PENDING ACTIONS:** US is part of a pending docket on local competition. They have finished evidentiary phase, and should have a decision in March 1996. They have not yet adopted a definition for basic services. Low income groups would be most likely target. They did not have a fund before because they had one dominate carrier, NYNEX (99% of market), who made internal adjustments to cover high costs areas and equalize rates. Open docket on local competition will address USF issue, but they are not likely to set up a fund immediately. NYNEX is going to price access so it will still be able to cover its costs. NYNEX basic residential rates are frozen for six years.

**COMMENTS:** Local competition docket will give them an opportunity to reassess US. It is hard to assess how much a company needs a subsidy. They would rather let carriers recover costs from other customers. If they do have local competition, they will need to find some way to fund US.

## **ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

**Programs to access video/cable services:** Cable companies are active in docket to enter the competitive market.

**Programs to access advanced information services:** Massachusetts Access to Government Network, MAGNet, is a statewide high speed communications network that will link together government agencies, libraries, schools, and businesses throughout the state. MAGNet will include 20,000 desktop computers for the state's own information workers, 2500 public access points in libraries and schools as well as from kiosks, potentially 300,000 business clients, and an estimated 2,000 municipal employees. Citizens will be able to perform "self service" government inquiries and transactions from home computers, the Internet or public access kiosks and library workstations.

**Programs for electronic access to public/government records:** Massachusetts Access to Government Information Services (MAGIS) will make information available by the secretary of the commonwealth, including the citizen's guide, facts and figures, and the commonwealth's goods and services bulletin, with details on pending state services and goods acquisitions. They also have set up kiosks helping to make government more accessible. These will allow users a single point of entry into government services and provide one-stop shopping.

**Public/private partnerships:**

## **1995 NTIA/TIIAP GRANTS**

**Quality Educational Scholastic Trust, Inc.** connects 40 public schools and colleges to the Internet, and will provide network access to the 139,000 residents and 20,000 students in geographically isolated Berkshire County (Total \$579K, Federal \$225K).

**Shrewbury's Community Cablevision.** This project will make the bookmobile a mobile on-line public access center, giving the computer terminals on the bookmobile instant access via the fiber network to the main library, a statewide library system of over 100 other libraries, and the Internet (Total \$34K, Federal \$17K).

# MICHIGAN

**Contact:** Ron Choura, Dept. Director of Policy  
Michigan Public Service Commission  
6545 Merchantile Way  
Lansing, Michigan 48509  
(517) 334-6240 Fax: (517) 882-4640

## STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Population:** 9,478,000  
**Size:** 96,705  
**Proportion rural:** 29.5%  
**Population per sq. mile:** 166.8  
**Median household income:** \$32,347  
**Percent below poverty:** 13.5%  
**Percent on public assistance:** 9.0%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Number of lines:** 5,239,540  
**Number of LECs:** 38  
**BOC:** Ameritech  
**Market share of BOC:** 84.4%  
**Penetration Rate:** 95.5%  
**LEC competition permitted:** 1991

## OPASTCO STUDY

**Subscribers per sq. mile:** 11.7  
**Difference in non-BOC loop costs:** 40.1%  
**Monthly revenues per customer:** \$11.31  
**Revenues if supports eliminated:** \$19.87  
**Percent who would disconnect:** 12.90%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

**Copper:** Yes      **Hybrid Fiber:** No  
**Fiber:** Yes      **Microwave:** No  
**Percent local loop digital:** 99.96%  
**Other Technology:**

## ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Cable households:** 61.0%  
**Cable in schools:** 76.0%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES

**BOC residential rate (s):** \$10.38  
**LEC residential rates:** \$3.76 to \$12.30

## UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Status of State Universal Service Program:** No statutes, regulations, or commission orders mandating Universal Service (US), but a legislative task force is looking at it.

**Targeted Groups:** None

**Definition of basic service:** White page listing and dial tone

**STATE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND:** No

**Fund Administrator:**

**Contributor:**

**Basis for contribution:**

**Types of subsidies:**

**Who draws from fund:**

**Is subsidy portable:**

**FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS:** Lifeline: Yes Link Up: Yes High Cost: Yes

**PENDING ACTIONS:** There is nothing pending now regarding US. The Commission doesn't regulate anything but basic telephone service. They have an unregulated market but there is little or no local competition. However, seven companies are authorized to provide local service. Currently, they are operating under Michigan Telecommunications Act (SB722) of 1995. The revised act requires LECs to provide low income with a 20% discount if income is 150% of poverty level and 65+ get a 10% discount. It is not likely they will develop a USF since they are a low cost state and given the present political climate. The legislature is not concerned about underserved areas but has convened a task force to look at the issue. Ameritech says cost are \$18, so rates are likely to go up in the future, and costs will be moved to the local loop.

**COMMENTS:** Michigan may have peaked with respect to US. They will try new experiment in competition and see what it happens. It may mean that there won't be any modernizing of infrastructure and penetration rates may fall. Intercity penetration rates are declining now.

## **ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

**Programs to access video/cable services:**

**Programs to access advanced information services:** They have a program linking all schools to Internet using Ameritech excess earnings. TCI Continental and other cable companies are installing 2-way broadband systems to link schools to the Internet. In many cases, this service is free or provided at very low rates. This includes some two-way video.

**Programs for electronic access to public/government records:** There is a move to put all documents on the Internet. The state government has a web page with a number of agencies on it.

**Public/private partnerships:** There are grants to schools to provide distance learning. They used Ameritech excess earning to connect schools to Internet and all schools are now wired. Michigan Information Network is a collaborative effort to link Michigan residents to the "Information Superhighway." The governor wants to connect business, citizens, and education with a collaborative effort of the state and private sector telecommunications companies.

## **1995 NTIA/TIAP GRANTS**

**Delta-Schoolcraft Intermediate School District - Northwoods Math-Science Center** will provide the K-12 schools in the south central Upper Peninsula of MI with full Internet capability, integrating of the project's existing distance learning video and audio network with Internet access (Total \$551K, Federal \$224K).

**Greater Kalamazoo - Telecity USA**, is linking local businesses, institutions and citizens to the national and global information infrastructure. It will create a network of networks (CommunityNET, LearnNET, CollegeNET, HealthNET, BizNET, and JobNET) benefiting as many as 200,000 end users (Total \$2,016K, Federal \$650K).

# MINNESOTA

**Contact:** Mark Oberlander, Telecommunications Manager  
Minnesota Public Utility Commission  
121 7th Place East Suite 350  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101  
(612) 296-1335 Fax: (612) 297-7073

## STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Population:** 4,517,000  
**Size:** 86,943  
**Proportion rural:** 30.1%  
**Population per sq. mile:** 56.7  
**Median household income:** \$31,077  
**Percent below poverty:** 12.8%  
**Percent on public assistance:** 5.7%

## OPASTCO STUDY

**Subscribers per sq. mile:** 6.8  
**Difference in non-BOC loop costs:** 54.4%  
**Monthly revenues per customer:** \$15.25  
**Revenues if supports eliminated:** \$23.02  
**Percent who would disconnect:** 12.90%

## ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Cable households:** 51.0%  
**Cable in schools:** 66.0%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Number of lines:** 2,459,839  
**Number of LECs:** 103  
**BOC:** US West  
**Market share of BOC:** 75.3%  
**Penetration Rate:** 96.4%  
**LEC competition permitted:** 8/95

## TELEPHONE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

**Copper :** Yes      **Hybrid Fiber:** No  
**Fiber :** Yes      **Microwave:** No  
**Percent local loop digital:** 99.78%  
**Other Technology:**

## TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES

**BOC residential rate (s):** \$14.10  
**LEC residential rates:** \$5.00 to \$30.00

## UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Status of State Universal Service Program:** Mandated universal service (US) in initial stages of rule making process  
**Targeted Groups:** None  
**Definition of basic service:** None

**STATE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND:** No

**Fund Administrator:**  
**Contributors:**  
**Basis for contribution:**  
**Types of subsidies:**  
**Who draws from fund:**  
**Is subsidy portable:**

**FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS:** Lifeline: Yes Link Up: Yes High Cost: Yes

**PENDING ACTIONS:** In 1995, the legislature required the Commission to develop rules for US. The statutory deadline is August 1997. They will be defining basic service as part of the rule making process. They are not sure about target groups since they are very early in process. They will be developing a USF or some other mechanism. Contributors will be defined as widely as possible to include any telecommunication provider. The LECs are doing well, so rates will get lower. They have already had some rate reductions for LECs. The Commission has ordered all companies to have digital switch and fiber optic lines between all exchanges.

**COMMENTS:** Telephone service is good today and they want to keep it that way. They want to make sure Minnesota don't lose US due to changes in local competition.

## **ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

**Programs to access video/cable services:** No state agency regulates cable, but both major cable providers have been granted telecommunication licenses. MNet state video network has 52 sites in and working, with another 23 to be installed in the next 6 months. The Legislature appropriated \$10.5 million in grant money to expand distance learning using interactive video technology to all school districts currently without it and providing Internet access to all school districts and libraries.

**Programs to access advanced information services:** Internet is not a telecommunication service, so the PUC is not addressing it in rule making. Access Minnesota seeks to increase the public's awareness of the Internet throughout the state by making it more accessible using existing network infrastructures. Public access terminals will be located in county extension offices in 60 communities throughout the state. They received a \$425K grant in 1994 from the NTIA/TIIAP program. The Minnesota Government Information Access Council is developing principles and recommendations for future action.

**Programs for electronic access to public/government records:** Government Information and Access Council is looking at how this should be done. Contact is Lee Larson (612)296-1334

**Public/private partnerships:**

## **1995 NTIA/TIIAP GRANTS**

**Independent School District 318.** This project will benefit the Northern Minnesota community of Grand Rapids by connecting five major buildings in this rural school district (over 2,000 square miles) to the Internet (Total \$411K, Federal \$190K).

# MISSISSIPPI

**Contact:** Nielsen Cochran, Commissioner  
Mississippi Public Service Commission  
PO Box 1174  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205  
(601) 961-5430 Fax: (601) 961-5469

## STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Population:** 2,643,000  
**Size:** 48,286  
**Proportion rural:** 52.9%  
**Population per sq. mile:** 56.3  
**Median household income:** \$20,585  
**Percent below poverty:** 24.5%  
**Percent on public assistance:** 11.8%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Number of lines:** 1,116,718  
**Number of LECs:** 20  
**BOC:** Bell South  
**Market share of BOC:** 93.9%  
**Penetration Rate:** 88.7%  
**LEC competition permitted:** policy barrier

## OPASTCO STUDY

**Subscribers per sq. mile:** 8.2  
**Difference in non-BOC loop costs:** 51.3%  
**Monthly revenues per customer:** \$21.40  
**Revenues if supports eliminated:** \$39.36  
**Percent who would disconnect:** 27.10%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

**Copper :** Yes      **Hybrid Fiber:** No  
**Fiber :** Yes      **Microwave:** No  
**Percent local loop digital:** 16.44%  
**Other Technology:**

## ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Cable households:** 58.0%  
**Cable in schools:** 63.0%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES

**BOC residential rate (s):** \$14.85 - \$19.00  
**LEC residential rates:** \$11.50 to \$18.00

## UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Status of State Universal Service Program:** Mandated Universal Service (US) with approved rules, fund in place  
**Targeted Groups:** None  
**Definition of basic service:** None

### STATE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: Yes

**Fund Administrator:** BOC administers fund, state oversees  
**Contributors:** LECs and BOC  
**Basis for contribution:** Minutes of use  
**Types of subsidies:** Rate subsidy, Direct infrastructure reimbursement  
**Who draws from fund:** 13 LECs, mostly independents and Bell South a small amount  
**Is subsidy portable:** No

**FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS:** Lifeline: Yes Link Up: Yes High Cost: Yes

**PENDING ACTIONS:** The Commission has opened a docket for competition that will include US. They should hold hearings in early 1996. They will discuss the definition of basic service in the docket. They may also target the fund at rural communities where there is a lack of competition. The docket will change the current USF. The new pool will have all parties participate in the USF, not just LECs. The docket will also change the formula for determining contributions. In the revised US program, a subsidy may be available for some but not others. The Commission recently ordered a price cap on Bell South residential rates and some charges will be eliminated. The Commission wants small LECs to provide Bell like services before reducing rates. They have refrained from intervening in infrastructure development, and expect new competitors will bring in new infrastructure technology and fiber.

**COMMENTS:** Basic telephone service is available throughout Mississippi -- services are available at reasonable price. They are looking at US, and how to maintain it in Mississippi.

## **ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

**Programs to access video/cable services:** No cable providers have applied for certification since it is against state law. The Commission is reconsidering allowing cable in through a dual certification program. The state has installed two video conferencing rooms in the north and central (capitol) sections of the state. They will also connect 20 sites provided by the community colleges and 12 distance learning sites.

**Programs to access advanced information services:** From the PUC's perspective, advanced services will not be included in US unless there is some directive from Washington. MS Senate Bill 2945 established the Council for Education Technology to oversee and approve the implementation of new and enhanced technology infrastructures for the educational community. The state is providing Internet access in conjunction with the distance learning network, ultimately to some 1200 schools and district offices.

**Programs for electronic access to public/government records:**

**Public/private partnerships:**

## **1995 NTIA/TIIAP GRANTS**

**Mississippi Dept. of Education - Office of Educational Technology.** The Mississippi Family Math and Science Network Project is a learning partnership among parents, children, schools, libraries, and communities that will bring five low-income rural MS communities access to computer information networks (Total \$1,615K, Federal \$800K)

# MISSOURI

**Contact:** John Van Eschen, Manager Telecommunication Department  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
PO Box 360  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
(314) 751-5525 Fax: (314) 751-1847

## STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Population:** 5,234,000  
**Size:** 69,709  
**Proportion rural:** 31.3%  
**Population per sq. mile:** 76.0  
**Median household income:** \$27,490  
**Percent below poverty:** 15.6%  
**Percent on public assistance:** 6.8%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Number of lines:** 2,810,915  
**Number of LECs:** 42  
**BOC:** Southwestern Bell  
**Market share of BOC:** 74.8%  
**Penetration Rate:** 92.1%  
**LEC competition permitted:** prohibited

## OPASTCO STUDY

**Subscribers per sq. mile:** 9.0  
**Difference in non-BOC loop costs:** 125.9%  
**Monthly revenues per customer:** \$13.91  
**Revenues if supports eliminated:** \$26.02  
**Percent who would disconnect:** 12.90%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

**Copper :** Yes      **Hybrid Fiber:** No  
**Fiber :** Yes      **Microwave:** Yes  
**Percent local loop digital:** 94.93%  
**Other Technology:** fixed cellular

## ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Cable households:** 53.0%  
**Cable in schools:** 66.0%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES

**BOC residential rate (s):** \$7.55 - \$12.50  
**LEC residential rates:** \$4.00 to \$16.00

## UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Status of State Universal Service Program:** No statute, regulations, or commission orders mandating Universal Service (US)

**Targeted Groups:** None

**Definition of basic service:** Single line, dual tone, 911, digital interoffice transmission, availability of custom calling features, access to long distance service

**STATE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND:** No

**Fund Administrator:**  
**Contributors:**  
**Basis for contribution:**  
**Types of subsidies:**  
**Who draws from fund:**  
**Is subsidy portable:**

**FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS:** Lifeline: Yes Link Up: Yes High Cost: Yes

**PENDING ACTIONS:** Commission has a docket on intraLATA presubscription and local competition. US may come up in that docket. They are looking at safe guards to protect US, nothing has happened yet. US was not an issue in the past, but now it is given local competition. Definition of basic service may be part of docket, if additional services require additional costs. It is too early to tell what groups might be targeted or if there will be a USF. These issues are part of the docket. Participation in the Lifeline program may also become an issue if rates start to go up. There are pending rate cases involving smaller LECs before the Commission. Generally residential rates are going up, and the impact to subscribers is mixed. Rate increase, however, have included the provision of additional services.

**COMMENTS:** There currently is not a problem with US in Missouri. Local exchange rates have been low. If rates start to go up, Commission may have to do something to keep them affordable. The average residential rate in Missouri is \$9.50.

## ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

**Programs to access video/cable services:** One cable provider applied for certification.

**Programs to access advanced information services:** United is conducting an experiment to allow toll free access to Internet, but may not expand this program, since AT&T is opposed to it. Missouri Distance Education Research Network (MoDERN) drives educational networking and distance learning Applications. The Missouri Research and Education Network (MOREnet), a consortium affiliated with the University of Missouri - Columbia, has become the defacto public state network for Internet services. They provide Internet access to 42 higher education institutions and are working to connect all 530 school districts. Their Project REAL: Remote Electronic Access for Libraries will bring all 136 public libraries online and they support an active group of Community Information Networks around the state.

**Programs for electronic access to public/government records:** Several state agencies have a home page, but not the PSC at this time. The state's Office of Administration is working in cooperation with MOREnet to develop a Network Information Plan to assist agencies in the selection, collection, and publishing of information via the Internet.

**Public/private partnerships:** SW Bell as part of settlement agreement will fund special projects including a "Telecommunity Center" for video conferencing, etc. in 5 locations in the state.

## 1995 NTIA/TIIAP GRANTS

**Community Resource Network (CRN).** The Neighborhood Network is to disseminate high-value city data that supports neighborhood revitalization efforts, and to support computer access without requiring costly computer purchases by the largely volunteer neighborhood organizations. It will provide such information as property ownership, dangerous building status, water shut-off records, housing court dockets and crime statistics. (Total \$787K, Federal \$385K).

**Public Television 19, Inc.** Every school district in Kansas and Missouri will have access to a video information network to be created by Kansas City Public Television (Total \$319K, Federal \$159K).

**Ozarks Regional Information On-line Network (ORION).** The NeighborNet project will bring small communities in rural southwest Missouri community information networks -- places where the general public can access information, including local information, on-line (Total \$273K, Federal \$129K).

# MONTANA

**Contact:** Bob Rowe  
Montana Public Service Commission  
1701 Prospect Ave.  
Helena, Montana 59620  
(406) 444-6167 Fax: (406) 444-7618

## STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Population:** 839,000  
**Size:** 147,046  
**Proportion rural:** 47.5%  
**Population per sq. mile:** 5.8  
**Median household income:** \$26,602  
**Percent below poverty:** 13.7%  
**Percent on public assistance:** 5.4%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Number of lines:** 435,594  
**Number of LECs:** 8  
**BOC:** US West  
**Market share of BOC:** 77.6%  
**Penetration Rate:** 95.4%  
**LEC competition permitted:** not prohibited

## OPASTCO STUDY

**Subscribers per sq. mile:** 0.5  
**Difference in non-BOC loop costs:** 66.3%  
**Monthly revenues per customer:** \$13.39  
**Revenues if supports eliminated:** \$31.70  
**Percent who would disconnect:** 27.10%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

**Copper:** Yes      **Hybrid Fiber:** No  
**Fiber:** Yes      **Microwave:** Yes  
**Percent local loop digital:** 76.27%  
**Other Technology:** Digital radio, BETRS

## ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Cable households:** 57.0%  
**Cable in schools:** 53.0%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES

**BOC residential rate (s):** \$13.84  
**LEC residential rates:** \$7.10 to \$16.38

## UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Status of State Universal Service Program:** No statutes, regulations, or commission orders mandating Universal Service (US)

**Targeted Groups:** None

**Definition of basic service:** None

**STATE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND:** No

**Fund Administrator:**

**Contributors:**

**Basis for contribution:**

**Types of subsidies:**

**Who draws from fund:**

**Is subsidy portable:**

**FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS:** Lifeline: Yes Link Up: Yes High Cost: Yes

**PENDING ACTIONS:** There is a task force looking at the issue of US. The Commission is interested in finding out effects of local competition on universal service in the state. They will address this issue as part of local competition. What constitutes basic service under local competition will also be an issue as well as target groups. There is considerable interest in discounted rates for schools and libraries. A USF is not an immediate issue. PTI is in for substantial rate increase. The increase is driven by a change in Federal USF subsidies due to PTI's increased size. The smaller LECs have joined together to upgrade their infrastructure and provide advanced technologies.

**COMMENTS:** Most of the network is in good shape. Urban areas have access but the real problem of penetration is in rural areas. If one defines US more broadly, then the rural problem is much bigger. The current rates for local service are reasonable but there will be upward pressure. The real problem is customer service with US West.

## **ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

### **Programs to access video/cable services:**

**Programs to access advanced information services:** The Capitol Complex Fiber Backbone reaches all major buildings in the capitol complex for government network support. The state's Information Services Division is expanding SUMMITNET to include Internet access and serve state agencies, local government agencies, institutions of education, libraries, tribal colleges, and qualifying non-profit organizations. The Kootenet Project involves three rural communities which are upgrading their communities telecommunication infrastructure, and four small phone companies which are providing local call access to the Internet.

**Programs for electronic access to public/government records:** Department of Administration is working on this. The contact is Tony Herbert (406)444-2700. Currently, access is only for state offices but they may be accessible to the public in the future.

**Public/private partnerships:** The University of Montana has a program that provides the community access to the Internet. There have also been projects involving an educational bulletin board, local tribal colleges, and distance medicine.

## **1995 NTIA/TIIAP GRANTS**

**City of Hardin Economic Development.** This project will develop local and wide area networks to provide computer access to the Internet for Big Horn County residents. This will improve and enhance information currently available to teachers, students, library patrons, medical patients, business people, and government officials. Citizens will have access to a "virtual library collection" (Total \$25K, Federal \$12K).

**Montana State University-Northern** will use existing telecommunications networks to deliver coursework to 30 extremely rural communities. They will provide K-12 courses, advanced placement high school classes, college and graduate level courses, in-service training to teachers, and consultations with medical personnel (Total \$1,578K, Federal \$695K).

# NEBRASKA

**Contact:** John Burvainis, Department Director of Commission  
Nebraska Public Service Commission  
300 The Atrium, 1200 North St.  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509  
(402) 471-0240 Fax: (402) 471-0254

## STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Population:** 1,607,000  
**Size:** 77,359  
**Proportion rural:** 33.9%  
**Population per sq. mile:** 20.9  
**Median household income:** \$30,177  
**Percent below poverty:** 10.3%  
**Percent on public assistance:** 4.2%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Number of lines:** 862,718  
**Number of LECs:** 42  
**BOC:** US West  
**Market share of BOC:** 53.9%  
**Penetration Rate:** 96.9%  
**LEC competition permitted:** not prohibited

## OPASTCO STUDY

**Subscribers per sq. mile:** 2.3  
**Difference in non-BOC loop costs:** 28.5%  
**Monthly revenues per customer:** \$12.90  
**Revenues if supports eliminated:** \$32.83  
**Percent who would disconnect:** 27.10%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

**Copper:** Yes      **Hybrid Fiber:** No  
**Fiber:** Yes      **Microwave:** Yes  
**Percent local loop digital:** 72.15%  
**Other Technology:**

## ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Cable households:** 65.0%  
**Cable in schools:** 52.0%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES

**BOC residential rate (s):** \$14.90  
**LEC residential rates:** \$4.00 to \$15.00

## UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Status of State Universal Service Program:** No statute, regulations, or commission orders mandating Universal Service (US)

**Targeted Groups:** None

**Definition of basic service:** None

**STATE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND:** No

**Fund Administrator:**

**Contributors:**

**Basis for contribution:**

**Types of subsidies:**

**Who draws from fund:**

**Is subsidy portable:**

**FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS:** Lifeline: No Link Up: Yes High Cost: Yes

**PENDING ACTIONS:** The Commission has opened a docket to look at the need for a USF. They are in the comment stage and no hearings have been set. The driver behind this issue is local competition. US was not an issue in a regulated market. They have a separate docket on local competition. The docket on USF will address the definition of basic service, target groups, and funding mechanisms. Targeted groups could be both high cost and low income, but more toward high cost. They expect that all carriers will contribute to the USF, and it will probably be a rate subsidy based on cost. They are not sure if it will go to the carrier or customer. Residential rates are likely to go up. They may use cellular or radio in some very rural to provide US.

**COMMENTS:** The Commission is interested in seeing if there's a need for a USF.

## **ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

**Programs to access video/cable services:** No cable companies have applied for certification, but they may get into the PCS market.

**Programs to access advanced information services:** Nebraska has a program to get Internet services to all schools - but not to all communities. This program is funded by tax dollars. The Nebraska legislature has created a Commission on Informational Technology to develop a statewide telecommunications strategy for state services while providing a synergistic partnership with business and industry. Local access to Internet is an issue that may be addressed in the future.

**Programs for electronic access to public/government records:** Nebraska on-line was set up through the Library Commission.

**Public/private partnerships:** Nebraska has programs to build a frame relay throughout state for an interactive video network and some distance learning projects. Through Data Network over 150 K-12 school districts will be connected to the Internet via a frame relay. Sandhills technology/ Telecommunications Educational Project (STEP) is constructing this network within several US West local exchanges to provide distance learning and access to advanced information applications.

## **1995 NTIA/TIIAP GRANTS**

**Gage County District 15 Beatrice Public Schools.** The Beatrice Connection will allow the entire city and the surrounding area to be linked effectively through electronic communication. It will provide Internet training and a WWW server (Total \$581K, Federal \$230K).

**City of Lincoln - Department of Finance/Data Processing Division.** InterLinc is designed to assist the city's urban and Lancaster County's rural communities place computers in low income or rural areas to reduce gaps between information "haves" and "have-nots." Dial-up, toll-free access will be available to citizens with computers and modems and government departments and agencies will build interactive WWW content (Total \$548K, Federal \$185K).

# NEVADA

**Contact:** Sharon Thomas, Manager Rates and Regulatory Analysis  
Nevada Public Service Commission  
727 Fairview Drive  
Carson City, Nevada 89710  
(702) 687-6034 Fax: (702) 687-6110

## STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Population:** 1,389,000  
**Size:** 110,567  
**Proportion rural:** 11.7%  
**Population per sq. mile:** 12.6  
**Median household income:** \$32,026  
**Percent below poverty:** 14.4%  
**Percent on public assistance:** 3.6%

## OPASTCO STUDY

**Subscribers per sq. mile:** 0.5  
**Difference in non-BOC loop costs:** -32.2%  
**Monthly revenues per customer:** \$15.56  
**Revenues if supports eliminated:** \$30.86  
**Percent who would disconnect:** 27.10%

## ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Cable households:** 66.0%  
**Cable in schools:** 71.0%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Number of lines:** 855,382  
**Number of LECs:** 13  
**BOC:** Nevada Bell  
**Market share of BOC:** 28.8%  
**Penetration Rate:** 92.8%  
**LEC competition permitted:** 5/95

## TELEPHONE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

**Copper :** Yes      **Hybrid Fiber:** Yes  
**Fiber :** Yes      **Microwave:** No  
**Percent local loop digital:** 10.36%  
**Other Technology:** Fixed cellular and BTRS

## TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES

**BOC residential rate (s):** \$10.00  
**LEC residential rates:** \$5.75 to \$16.00

## UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Status of State Universal Service Program:** Mandated Universal Service (US) with approved rules, fund in place  
**Targeted Groups:** Rural/high cost  
**Definition of basic service:** Touch tone, voice grade, 911, white pages, long distance access, and dial tone

**STATE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND:** Yes

**Fund Administrator:** Independent third party  
**Contributors:** All telecommunication providers  
**Basis for contribution:** % of intrastate retail revenues  
**Types of subsidies:** Rate subsidy, Direct infrastructure reimbursement  
**Who draws from fund:** Small LECs if rate of return is below commission set level  
**Is subsidy portable:** No

**FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS:** Lifeline: Yes Link Up: Yes High Cost: Yes

**PENDING ACTIONS:** The Commission has no pending actions with respect to US since they just adopted new omnibus telecommunication regulations that includes a Universal Service Fund. They are transitioning from a state wide fund to a universal service fund. No money is in state USF. but they will collect money for fund when they get funding request.

**COMMENTS:** Nevada is a very rural state, and it still has some rural residents with toll station service and some party line customers (300-350). Providing US is clearly a staff objective, especially to rural areas.

## **ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

**Programs to access video/cable services:** The Commission doesn't regulate cable. Small direct TV dishes are more likely solution in rural areas than is cable.

**Programs to access advanced information services:**

**Programs for electronic access to public/government records:** The states's Department of Information Services (702-687-4091) is working on this. The Commission currently has access to the Internet, but their information is not currently provided on the Internet.

**Public/private partnerships:**

## **1995 NTIA/TIIAP GRANTS**

**University and Community College System of Nevada, (UCCSN)** will create a system of information brokers who will train end users in remote, rural communities to find and use on-line resources, creating a human infrastructure for end user support. Members of ten rural communities will be empowered to be brokers of on-line user support services that already exist in their community. Local dial-up access will also be provided in the communities served (Total \$881K, Federal \$427K).

# NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Contact:** Chris Nurse, Utility Analyst  
New Hampshire Public Utility Commission  
8 Old Suncook Road  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-7319  
(603) 271-2431 Fax: (603) 271-8828

## STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Population:** 1,125,000  
**Size:** 9,283  
**Proportion rural:** 49.0%  
**Population per sq. mile:** 125.5  
**Median household income:** \$39,644  
**Percent below poverty:** 8.6%  
**Percent on public assistance:** 3.4%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Number of lines:** 660,804  
**Number of LECs:** 14  
**BOC:** NYNEX  
**Market share of BOC:** 93.8%  
**Penetration Rate:** 95.8%  
**LEC competition permitted:** 8/95

## OPASTCO STUDY

**Subscribers per sq. mile:** 30.9  
**Difference in non-BOC loop costs:** 5.7%  
**Monthly revenues per customer:** \$11.20  
**Revenues if supports eliminated:** \$22.04  
**Percent who would disconnect:** 12.90%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

**Copper :** Yes      **Hybrid Fiber:** No  
**Fiber :** Yes      **Microwave:** Yes  
**Percent local loop digital:** 12.92%  
**Other Technology:**

## ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Cable households:** 73.0%  
**Cable in schools:** 46.0%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES

**BOC residential rate (s):** \$18.00  
**LEC residential rates:** \$6.00 to \$9.00

## UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Status of State Universal Service Program:** Mandated Universal Service (US) in the initial stage of the rule making process

**Targeted Groups:** None

**Definition of basic service:** None

**STATE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND:** No

**Fund Administrator:**

**Contributors:**

**Basis for contribution:**

**Types of subsidies:**

**Who draws from fund:**

**Is subsidy portable:**

**FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS:** Lifeline: No Link Up: Yes High Cost: Yes

**PENDING ACTIONS:** NHPUC has a docket on local competition (DRM 9591) and they are currently doing background research. They have a mandate to finish by the end of 1996. The definition of basic service is not an issue in NH since all LECs are updated. They don't believe they need to define a higher standard than is currently in place. Target groups also are not real issue in NH. There is no evidence that LECs need a USF because they currently have adequate capital and earnings. But the need for a USF will have to be considered in the rule making process. Any USF would be revenue neutral and would apply to all carriers. They will have to realign rates soon so rates match costs -- urban rates need to come down and rural rates need to go up. Fiber in interoffice connections and digital switching have reduced the difference between rural and urban telephone service.

**COMMENTS:** US is less of an issue in NH than other states. They are in a state of change. They don't want to set up a USF until they see what happens in market. They don't need a USF now, and they hope to benefit from the experience of other states. NH doesn't participate in Lifeline because of the matching funds required.

## **ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

### **Programs to access video/cable services:**

**Programs to access advanced information services:** Local call access to Internet is a big problem in certain areas of the state. There are large rural areas without toll free access. The NHPUC has a docket that may expand local calling areas to address this problem. There is also pressure from the education system to get free Internet access and distance learning. Schools want the phone company to subsidize access and equipment. The Postsecondary Technical Education Department (PSTE) currently contracts for Internet access with NEARNET. Both the state library and the Department of Education have implemented Internet access through the PSTE connection.

**Programs for electronic access to public/government records:** The NHPUC has a Web page, and they are moving to make Commission orders available. The state is also considering alternatives to allow electronic access to state and federal government information. Public access may be serviced and billed monthly by the local telephone service carrier.

### **Public/private partnerships:**

## **1995 NTIA/TIIAP GRANTS**

**Children's Alliance of New Hampshire, Inc. - Benefits Access Network.** SafetyNet will increase access to public and private assistance programs for children, families, and individuals of all ages in the state of New Hampshire through the use of computer networking technologies. Benefit Outreach Screening Software (BOSS), a new software program, will offer families an on-screen questionnaire, determine eligibility, and generate completed application forms for those services (Total \$207K, Federal \$83K).

# NEW JERSEY

**Contact:** Patricia Campbell  
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities  
Two Gateway Center  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
(201) 648-7694 Fax: (201) 648-4298

## STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Population:** 7,879  
**Size:** 8,215  
**Proportion rural:** 10.6%  
**Population per sq. mile:** 1,062.0  
**Median household income:** \$39,227  
**Percent below poverty:** 10.0%  
**Percent on public assistance:** 6.1%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Number of lines:** 5,212,937  
**Number of LECs:** 3  
**BOC:** Bell Atlantic  
**Market share of BOC:** 96.9%  
**Penetration Rate:** 93.9%  
**LEC competition permitted:** under consideration

## OPASTCO STUDY

**Subscribers per sq. mile:** 387.2  
**Difference in non-BOC loop costs:** 42.6%  
**Monthly revenues per customer:**  
**Revenues if supports eliminated:**  
**Percent who would disconnect:**

## TELEPHONE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

**Copper :** Yes      **Hybrid Fiber:** No  
**Fiber :** Yes      **Microwave:** No  
**Percent local loop digital:** 99.98%  
**Other Technology:**

## ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Cable households:** 77.0%  
**Cable in schools:** 79.0%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES

**BOC residential rate (s):** \$7.00 - 8.00  
**LEC residential rates:** \$5.30 to \$7.80

## UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Status of State Universal Service Program:** No statutes, regulations or commission orders mandating Universal Service (US)

**Targeted Groups:** None

**Definition of basic service:** Single party, multi-party, rotary, voice grade line, 911, white page listing, long-distance service, repair service, privacy protection

**STATE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND:** No

**Fund Administrator:**

**Contributors:**

**Basis for contribution:**

**Types of subsidies:**

**Who draws from fund:**

**Is subsidy portable:**

**FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS:** Lifeline: No    Link Up: Yes    High Cost: No

**PENDING ACTIONS:** Nothing is currently pending regarding US in New Jersey. The Board is initiating an investigation into local competition. A generic proceeding on US is forecasted for the future and rule making may occur at that time.

**COMMENTS:** Telephone rates in NJ have remained one of the lowest in the country making service affordable to most customers.

## **ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

**Programs to access video/cable services:** There is a cooperative distance learning project with the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Burlington County College, and OTIS to provide classroom presentations remotely via the Garden State Network.

**Programs to access advanced information services:** Kiosks are being installed throughout the state to enhance public access to information. Anticipated uses are travel and tourism, employment opportunities, and motor vehicles.

**Programs for electronic access to public/government records:** Internet access is expanding with a number of agencies expressing interest in both access and providing information to the Internet. A web server has been installed for this use, and a coordinated home page is in development. The intent is to present a single image of the state on the Internet.

**Public/private partnerships:** See Mercer CCC/MercerNet below.

## **1995 NTIA/TIIAP GRANTS**

**Newark Board of Education,** in a partnership with the New Community Corporation and the University of Medicine and Dentistry - New Jersey, will expand its Making Healthy MUSIC project by extending access to a greater number of residents in an inner-city neighborhood in Newark. The primary goal is to improve the delivery of primary health care to community residents by empowering the community to manage their own health issues (Total \$180K, Federal \$100K).

**Mercer County Community College.** MercerNet is a 14 member consortium that will use Comcast Cablevision to build an interactive wide area network (WAN) to link eight specially equipped high school classrooms, a science center, a vocational-technical school, nine libraries and the community college. The network will provide interactive television for distance learning, access to the Internet, and an interface for multimedia video (Total \$2,623K, Federal \$700K).

# NEW MEXICO

**Contact:** Ken Solomon, Director of Telecommunication Department  
New Mexico State Corporation Commission  
PO Drawer 1269  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1269  
(505) 827-4496 Fax: (505) 827-4417

## STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Population:** 1,616,000  
**Size:** 121,598  
**Proportion rural:** 27.0%  
**Population per sq. mile:** 13.3  
**Median household income:** \$26,158  
**Percent below poverty:** 21.0%  
**Percent on public assistance:** 8.0%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Number of lines:** 752,959  
**Number of LECs:** 14  
**BOC:** US West  
**Market share of BOC:** 86.0%  
**Penetration Rate:** 88.6%  
**LEC competition permitted:** 1985

## OPASTCO STUDY

**Subscribers per sq. mile:** 0.5  
**Difference in non-BOC loop costs:** 104.7%  
**Monthly revenues per customer:** \$16.26  
**Revenues if supports eliminated:** \$63.22  
**Percent who would disconnect:** 44.70%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

**Copper :** Yes      **Hybrid Fiber:** No  
**Fiber :** Yes      **Microwave:** Yes  
**Percent local loop digital:** 99.02%  
**Other Technology:** BETRS

## ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Cable households:** 57.0%  
**Cable in schools:** 58.0%

## TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES

**BOC residential rate (s):** \$10.96 to \$15.86  
**LEC residential rates:** \$10.96 to \$15.86

## UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Status of State Universal Service Program:** Mandated Universal Service (US) with approved rules, fund in place  
**Targeted Groups:** Rural/high cost, Low income/economically disadvantaged  
**Definition of basic service:** None

### STATE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: Yes

**Fund Administrator:** Commission established board  
**Contributors:** No one now but everyone was suppose to  
**Basis for contribution:** Revenues  
**Types of subsidies:** Rate subsidy  
**Who draws from fund:** No one is currently drawing from the fund  
**Is subsidy portable:** No

**FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS:** Lifeline: Yes Link Up: Yes High Cost: No

**PENDING ACTIONS:** They will be opening a docket on local competition which may involve US. USF will most likely be targeted to high cost and will involve a rate subsidy. There are no official rate cases currently but US West wants rate rebalancing -- to increase residential and lower business rates.

**COMMENTS:** New Mexico doesn't have US.

## **ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

**Programs to access video/cable services:** The NM SCC has the authority to regulate two-way voice and data.

**Programs to access advanced information services:** US West is installing ISDN lines that will make it possible. With improved infrastructure, advanced information services may become a reality.

**Programs for electronic access to public/government records:** Corporation Commission data is available on the Internet

**Public/private partnerships:**

## **1995 NTIA/TIAP GRANTS**

**Cooperative Educational Services Albuquerque** is a joint planning grant for small and remote rural communities to create an infrastructure development plan that provides a road map for information highway access that is affordable, sustainable and reflective of community needs and interests (Total \$33K, Federal \$16K).

**University of New Mexico - University Affiliated Program/Training Unit**, UNM Health Sciences Center working in partnership with rural NM communities and state agencies, will use grant funds to develop a multilevel interactive telecommunications model project called TeleCommunity HELP: Health Education Links Project. The project will provide health and education related support for five rural, underserved communities in NM (Total \$530K, Federal \$245K).

**Santa Fe Community College.** This project will determine how telecommunications can help solve problems in the fields of health care and education in locations where there is limited access to a wide range of government and social services (Total \$50K, Federal \$24K).

**La Plaza Telecommunity Foundation, Inc.** will set up an electronic plaza in the rural Taos region, where students, seniors, Hispanics, Native Americans, Anglos, and others can meet, communicate, and get information important to their daily lives. La Plaza will provide access to the arts, education, government, health care, business and other information and communication resources free of charge for everyone via public access computers and dial-in connections (Total \$2,551K, Federal \$450K).