



# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## Department of Telecommunications and Cable

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### NOTICE

To: All Massachusetts ETCs Receiving Federal USF High-Cost or Low-Income Support

From: Karlen Reed, Director, Competition Division

Date: May 11, 2015

Re: July 1, 2015 – FCC Form 481 Data and High-Cost ETC Affidavit

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***Background.*** The Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) has imposed annual reporting requirements on all Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) receiving high-cost and/or low-income support from the federal Universal Service Fund (“USF”).<sup>1</sup> In particular, the FCC requires all ETCs to submit annually, by July 1, an FCC Form 481 with accompanying documentation to the FCC, the Universal Service Administrative Company (“USAC”), and relevant state commissions like the Department of Telecommunications and Cable (“Department”).

***Filing Requirements.*** Consistent with the FCC’s requirements, the Department directs all ETCs receiving high-cost and/or low-income support for service in Massachusetts to submit their FCC Form 481s and accompanying documentation to the Department ***no later than July 1, 2015***. At this time, ETCs receiving high-cost support need to complete and submit to the Department only the sections and supporting information required by the FCC and USAC. ETCs receiving low-income support need to complete and submit the sections and supporting information required by the FCC, USAC, and the Department.<sup>2</sup> ETCs are required to submit concurrently to the Department any revisions to the FCC Form 481 or supporting data filed with USAC and the FCC made subsequent to the filing deadline. In addition, the Department directs ETCs receiving high-cost support for service in Massachusetts to submit the attached notarized affidavit with their filing. The Department will use this documentation as the basis for its annual high-cost certification made to USAC and the FCC.<sup>3</sup>

***Failure to file the required documentation by the deadline may jeopardize an ETC’s ability to receive support.***

***Filing Instructions.*** All filings should be submitted as hard-copies. To the extent that a carrier deems any information submitted with its filing to be proprietary, the filing should include an appropriate Motion for Confidential Treatment.<sup>4</sup> If the ETC seeks confidential treatment, then the submittal should include one (1) original, unredacted version, two (2) unredacted copies, and three (3) redacted copies of the filing. If not submitting confidential information, then the filing should include one (1) original version and three (3) copies. Direct all submittals to the attention of Sara Clark, Department Secretary. Please note that the Department will not grant blanket requests for confidentiality, and carriers should not redact information otherwise available from public sources.

**Contact.** For questions, clarifications, or additional inquiries, contact Sean Carroll, Counsel, Legal Division, at [Sean.M.Carroll@state.ma.us](mailto:Sean.M.Carroll@state.ma.us). After June 15, 2015, you may also contact Kerri DeYoung Phillips, Counsel, Competition Division, at [Kerri.DeYoung@state.ma.us](mailto:Kerri.DeYoung@state.ma.us).

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*See* 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

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*See Investigation by the Department on its Own Motion into the Implementation in Massachusetts of the Federal Communications Commission's Order Reforming the Lifeline Program*, D.T.C. Docket 13-4, Order Implementing Requirements and Further Request for Comment (Aug. 1, 2014) (imposing certain FCC Form 481 reporting requirements on Massachusetts ETCs receiving federal low-income support).

3

*See* 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.314(a), (c), (d).

4

*See* G.L. c. 25C, § 5.