

Tab 7 Method of Funding



Method of Funding

Relay Iowa is funded through an annual assessment upon all telecommunications carriers providing service in the state. Wireless communications service providers are assessed three cents per month for each wireless communications service number provided in the state of Iowa. The remainder of the assessment is allocated one-half to local exchange utilities and one-half to the following: 1) intrastate interexchange carriers, 2) centralized equal access providers, and 3) alternative operator services companies. This part of the assessment is levied upon intrastate telephone revenues (see next page, Iowa Code § 477C.7). There is no provision for labeling in the funding section of the statute, and it is not anticipated that any wireline telecommunications carrier would include relay service costs as a labeled line item on customer bills. However, some wireless communications service providers serving the state label the relay service assessment as a line item on customer bills. These wireless providers are known to label the TRS assessment on its customers' bills:

Alltel—"Telecommunications Relay Service Fee"

Verizon—"DPRS fee" (in Iowa, the law refers to TRS as Dual Party Relay Service)

These wireless providers include the TRS assessment with other fees and label them as the following:

AT&T Wireless—"Regulatory Cost Recovery Charge"

US Cellular—"Regulatory Cost Recovery Fee"