



Via Electronic Mail

January 10, 2012

Sharon Gillett
Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Lifeline, Link Up and TLS Support in 2011 (WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 03-109; CC Docket No. 96-45)

Dear Ms. Gillett:

This letter provides information about the Lifeline, Link Up and Toll Limitation Service (TLS) Support claims submitted to USAC by eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) on FCC Form 497.¹ Where indicated, the information is reported by claims submitted by Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) and claims submitted by Competitive Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (CETCs).

Lifeline

The chart below shows the numbers of Lifeline subscribers claimed by ETCs (averaged over nine months) for January 2011 through September 2011.

| Lifeline Subscribers Claimed for January through September 2011 | | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | Non-Tribal | Tribal | Total |
| ILEC | 4,820,290 | 94,735 | 4,915,025 |
| CETC | 8,517,605 | 357,297 | 8,874,902 |
| Total | 13,337,895 | 452,032 | 13,789,927 |

¹ The Lifeline subscriber numbers and support claims include amounts reported on FCC Forms 497 for the referenced period as of January 6, 2012 (including late-filed claims and revisions to prior months).

The chart below shows the amount of Lifeline support claimed by ETCs for January 2011 through September 2011.

| Lifeline Support Claimed for January through September 2011 | | | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | Non-Tribal | Tribal | Total |
| ILEC | \$385,533,677 | \$11,000,836 | \$396,534,513 |
| CETC | \$703,495,519 | \$73,271,131 | \$776,766,650 |
| Total | \$1,089,029,196 | \$84,271,967 | \$1,173,301,163 |

The chart below shows the average Lifeline support claimed per subscriber by ETCs for September 2011.

| Average Lifeline Support Claimed per Subscriber for September 2011 | | | | |
|---|------------|-------------|---|---|
| | Low | High | Average Lifeline Rate Claimed by ETCs (weighted)² | Median Lifeline Rate Claimed by ETCs |
| Non-tribal | \$4.25 | \$10.00 | \$9.25 | \$9.58 |
| Tribal | \$9.54 | \$35.00 | \$21.45 | \$21.46 |

The chart below shows the range of Lifeline support claimed by ETCs by tier of support for September 2011.

| Lifeline Support Claimed by ETCs by Tier for September 2011 | | | |
|--|------------|-------------|--|
| | Low | High | Average Rate Claimed per Tier³ |
| Tier 1 | \$2.24 | \$6.50 | \$5.89 |
| Tier 2 | \$0.00 | \$1.75 | \$1.75 |
| Tier 3 | \$0.00 | \$1.75 | \$1.66 |
| Tier 4 | \$0.00 | \$25.00 | \$21.45 |

² Average equals total number of Lifeline subscribers divided by total Lifeline dollars claimed.

³ Averages equal number of Lifeline subscribers by tier divided by total dollar claimed per support tier.

The chart below shows the range of Tier 1 support claimed by ETCs for September 2011.

| Tier 1 Amounts by Subscriber | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tier 1 Range | Tier 1 Subscribers |
| \$2.24-\$3.31 | 1,094 |
| \$3.32-\$4.38 | 108,597 |
| \$4.39-\$5.44 | 3,885,939 |
| \$5.45-\$6.50 | 10,755,308 |

Link Up

The chart below shows the numbers of Link Up subscribers claimed by ETCs for January 2011 through September 2011.

| Link Up Subscribers Claimed for January through September 2011 | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Non-Tribal | Tribal | Total |
| ILEC | 289,229 | 3,208 | 292,437 |
| CETC | 2,282,092 | 184,018 | 2,466,110 |
| Total | 2,571,321 | 187,226 | 2,758,547 |

The chart below shows the amount of Link Up support claimed by ETCs for January 2011 through September 2011.

| Link Up Support Claimed for January through September 2011 | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Non-Tribal | Tribal | Total |
| ILEC | \$ 5,552,103 | \$ 57,280 | \$ 5,609,383 |
| CETC | \$ 67,879,850 | \$ 14,476,328 | \$ 82,356,178 |
| Total | \$ 73,431,953 | \$ 14,533,608 | \$ 87,965,561 |

TLS

The chart below shows the TLS claimed by ETCs for January 2011 through September 2011. Two of the 119 CETCs claiming TLS are wireless CETCs with two or fewer TLS subscribers, while the remaining 117 are wireline CETCs.

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| TLS Support and Subscribers Claimed for January through September 2011 | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| | Number of ETCs Claiming TLS | Average Number of TLS Subscribers | Average TLS Rate per Subscriber | Total TLS Support Claimed |
| ILEC | 248 | 4,288 | \$0.51 | \$542,940 |
| CETC | 119 | 18,656 | \$3.67 | \$8,147,670 |
| Total | 367 | 8,945 | \$2.65 | \$8,690,610 |

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

//s//

Karen Majcher,
Vice President High Cost and Low Income Division