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OCTOBER 20, 2016

SPECIAL BULLETIN

Lifeline Reminders

Lifeline Broadband Internet Access Service

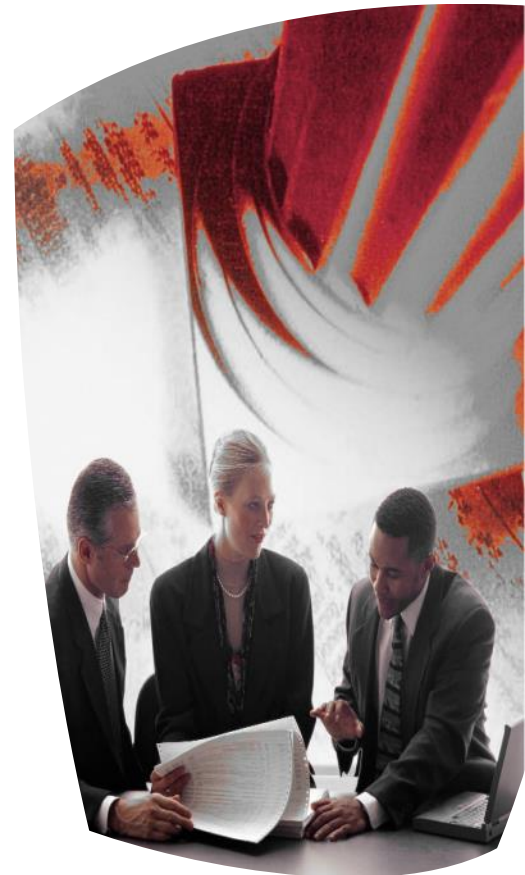
The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) stating that OMB approval has been received for rules adopted in the 2016 Lifeline Reform Order (see May 5, 2016 Special Bulletin). Most importantly, rules allowing for Lifeline treatment of Broadband Internet Access Service (BIAS) are effective beginning on December 2, 2016. For currently-designated ETCs authorized to receive high cost support, this means that by December 2, 2016:

- ⇒ Standalone BIAS can be provided (where it is available) to qualified Lifeline customers and the credit (currently \$9.25 for non-Tribal customers and up to \$34.25 for customers residing on Tribal lands) can be applied to the BIAS.
- ⇒ Voice/Broadband Bundles are eligible for Lifeline treatment if *either* the voice service *or* the broadband service meets the applicable minimum service standard (for fixed broadband, the standard is 10/1 mbps with 150 gb of monthly capacity; there are no specific standards for fixed voice service)
 - ⇒ This standard continues until 11/30/2019, at which time BIAS meeting current broadband obligations must be included in the bundle in order to offer the full Lifeline credit.
- ⇒ Lifeline BIAS does not have to be offered in areas where the ETC does not offer commercially available service meeting the current broadband obligations.

Annual Lifeline Recertification

All Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (incumbent or competitive) that provide Lifeline service and receive reimbursement from USAC must annually recertify Lifeline customers pursuant to FCC rules (see section [54.410\(f\)](#)). The recertification process for 2016 must be complete by December 31 for reporting on the January 31, 2017 [Form 555](#).

Please let us know if you have any questions.



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Questions? Comments?

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