



FCC Form 481 Filing Guide

ETCs receiving support from the High Cost and Lifeline programs must file the FCC Form 481 on or before July 1, 2025.

For ETCs with rates below the benchmark, report rates and lines on [Rate Floor Data Collection Report and Certification](#) (see 47 C.F.R. Sections 54.313(h) and 54.318).

Before filing, review the [FCC Form 481 Instructions](#) (revised 2020). ETCs should complete sections of the FCC Form 481 [electronically in One Portal](#) as follows:

481 Section & Issue	High Cost Program Rule	Notes	Lifeline Program Rule	Lifeline Program Filers
Section 200: Outages	N/A	File voice outages for 2022 Do not file broadband outages (see DA 13-332, footnote 46)	54.422(b)(1)	54.422 only filings where Lifeline ETC is FCC- designated
Section 400: Complaints	N/A	File voice complaints for 2022.	54.422(b)(2)	54.422 only filings where Lifeline ETC is FCC- designated
Section 500: Quality and Consumer Protection Certification	N/A	Certify for voice and for broadband service.	54.422(b)(3)	54.422 only filings where Lifeline ETC is FCC- designated



Section 600: Emergency certification	54.313(a)(1)	Certify for voice and for broadband service	54.422(b)(4)	54.422 only filings where Lifeline ETC is FCC- designated
Section 800: Affiliates and D/B/A	54.313(a)(4)	Complete FCC Form 481 affiliates worksheet. Verify whether the holding company per the FCC Form 477 is accurate.	54.422(a)(1)	All ETCs that receive Lifeline Program support
Section 900: Tribal Engagement	54.313(a)(5)	For ETCs serving Tribal lands, complete FCC Form 481 Tribal engagement worksheet.	N/A	N/A
Section 1000: Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability	54.313(a)(2) and (a)(3)	Certify that voice and broadband rates are reasonably comparable. Identify most recent wireline survey (see Section 1000 in FAQ for details).	N/A	N/A
Section 1100: Satellite Backhaul	54.313(g)	Carriers compelled to rely exclusively on satellite backhaul must certify annually that no terrestrial backhaul options exist and that they are offering 1 Mbps/256 kbps broadband service within that area.	N/A	N/A
Section 1200: Lifeline Terms and Conditions	N/A	Terms and conditions of plans offered to Lifeline Program subscribers.	54.422(a)(2)	All ETCs that receive Lifeline Program Support
Section 2005: Frozen Support	54.313(c)(4)	Price cap carriers that received frozen support must certify that all support received in 2022 was used to build and operate broadband-capable networks to offer broadband in areas substantially unserved by an unsubsidized competitor.	N/A	N/A



Section 2005: CAF ICC Support	54.313(d)	Price cap carriers that received ICC support must certify that all support received in 2022 was used to build and operate broadband-capable networks to offer broadband in areas substantially unserved by an unsubsidized competitor.	N/A	N/A
Section 2005: CAF Phase II Support	54.313(e)	Price cap carriers that received CAF Phase II support must submit capital expenditures and a list of any community anchor institutions newly served in 2022.	N/A	N/A
Section 3005: Milestone Certification	54.313(f)(1)(i)	Rate-of-return filers must certify that they have taken reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service that meets the Commission's public interest obligations and that requests for such service were met within a reasonable amount of time.	N/A	N/A
Section 3005: Community Anchor Institutions	54.313(f)(1)(ii)	Rate-of-return filers must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the ETC began offering broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	N/A	N/A
Section 3005: Privately-held Rate of Return Financials	54.313(f)(2)	Privately held rate-of-return carriers must file financial information.	N/A	N/A



Section 4005: RBE Public Interest Obligations	FCC 14-98	RBE participants must certify that they offer broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations, including speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates in urban areas.	N/A	N/A
Section 4005: RBE Community Anchor Institutions	FCC 14-98	RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the ETC began offering broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	N/A	N/A
Section 5005: Alaska Plan	54.313(f)(3) and 54.313(l)	Rate-of-return as well as wireless/CETC participants in the Alaska Plan are required to report additional information in the event terrestrial backhaul or other satellite backhaul became commercially available in the prior calendar year.	N/A	N/A
Section 6005: Phase II Auction Reporting	54.313(e)(2)(i)(B) and 54.313(e)(2)(ii)	Recipients of Phase II Auction support, including carriers in New York that receive Phase II auction support, must submit the total amount of support, they used for capital expenditures in 2022 and certify that the recipient has available funds for all project costs that will exceed the amount of support that will be received for 2023.	N/A	N/A
Section 7005: Phase-down Support Reporting	54.313(m)	Carriers that elect to continue receiving support pursuant to §54.312(d) or §54.307(e)(2)(iii) must certify that all such support the company received in the previous year was used to provide voice service at rates that are reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas.	N/A	N/A



Section 8005: Puerto Rico Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification	54.313(e)(2), 54.313(n) and 54.313(o)	Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 fixed and mobile support must submit the total amount of support, if any, the recipient used for capital expenditures in 2024.	N/A	N/A
Section 9005: Connect USVI Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification	54.313(e)(2), 54.313(n) and 54.313(o)	Recipients of Connect USVI fixed and mobile support must certify that they have available funds for all project costs that will exceed the amount of support that will be received for the next calendar year.	N/A	N/A
Section 10005: Rural Digital Opportunity Fund	54.313(e)(2)	Recipients of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support must submit the total amount of support, if any, the recipient used for capital expenditures in 2024.	N/A	N/A
Section 11005: Enhanced ACAM (E-ACAM) Certification	54.313(f)(6)	Recipients of Enhanced ACAM support must indicate whether they participated in the BEAD program challenge process, complied with the obligation that BEAD funds not be used for the locations counted for EACAM and participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program or successor program.	N/A	N/A
Supply Chain Certifications	54.9 – 54.11	All carriers are required to certify to their compliance with the stated supply chain requirements	N/A	N/A