

The table below lists the major FCC orders, rulemaking notices, public notices, and other documents relating to the Low Income Program. The list is in reverse chronological order. Note that the table does not include all FCC orders, rulemaking notices, public notices, and other documents relating to the USF and USAC. The table may be updated on an ongoing basis.

Title and Docket(s)	Document Number/Citation	Release Date	Commonly Referred To As	Brief Description
Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance Regarding the Effective Date of Certain Rules Adopted in the Lifeline Reform, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 03-109, 12-23 and CC Docket No. 12-23, Public Notice	DA 12-493	3/29/12		The implementation of the \$9.25 Lifeline flat rate on non-Tribal lands cannot become effective until the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approves the data collection provisions of that rule. Upon OMB approval, the FCC will publish a notice announcing the effective date of the rule and providing no less than 90 days for ETCs to come into compliance with the provisions.
In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training, WC Docket no. 11-42, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,	FCC 12-11	2/6/12	Lifeline Reform Order	The FCC comprehensively reforms and begins to modernize the Universal Service Fund's Lifeline program by substantially strengthening protections against waste, fraud, and abuse; improving program administration and accountability; improving enrollment and consumer disclosures; initiating modernization of the program for broadband; and constraining the growth of the program in order to reduce the burden on all who contribute to the Universal Service Fund.
Inquiry Into Disbursement Process For The Universal Service Fund Low Income Program WC Docket No. 03-10, Public Notice	DA 11-1593 , 26 FCC Rcd 13131	9/23/11		Seeks comment on a proposal for disbursing Universal Service Fund low income support to eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) based upon actual support payments made, instead of projected.
In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Lifeline and Link Up, CC Docket No.	FCC 11-97 , 26 FCC Rcd 9022	6/21/11	2011 Duplicative Program Payments Order	FCC Reforms Lifeline Program to Eliminate Waste & Ensure Fiscal Responsibility

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03-109, Report and Order				
Deadline For Annual Lifeline Verification Surveys And Certifications, WC Docket No. 03-109, Public Notice.	DA 11-749 , 26 FCC Rcd 6218	4/28/11		A reminder that an ETC in a state with its own state-based low income program must submit a certification, signed by an officer of the company, to USAC by August 31, 2011.
Letter to Richard Belden from Sharon Gillett, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, WC Docket No. 05-337, Letter.	DA 11-632	4/7/11		WCB Guidance Letter: Response to a request for guidance from the Universal Service Administrative Company regarding eligible telecommunications carriers obligation to advertise supported services
In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Lifeline and Link Up, WC Docket No. 11-42, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 03-109, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.	FCC 11-32	3/4/2011		FCC takes steps to comprehensively reform and modernize the Lifeline/Link Up program for 21st century communications needs building on recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, the Government Accountability Office, and the National Broadband Plan. The reforms will set the program on a firmer footing, establishing greater accountability and ensuring that millions of low-income Americans continue to receive affordable phone service while using savings from reforms to fund pilot programs for broadband.
Letter to Richard Belden, USAC, from Sharon Gillett, Chief FCC Wireline Competition Bureau, Letter.	DA 11-110	1/21/2011		WCB Guidance Letter: Wireline Competition Bureau provides guidance to USAC on duplicate claims for Lifeline support.
In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Lifeline and Link Up, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket Nol. 03-109, Recommended Decision.	FCC 10J-3 , 25 FCC Rcd 15598	11/4/2010		Adopted Recommended Decision on Low-Income Issues
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Seeks Comment on Lifeline and Link-Up Eligibility, Verification, And Outreach Issues Referred to Joint	FCC 10J-2 , 25 FCC Rcd 7551 (2010)	6/15/2010		Seeks comment on the <i>Referral Order</i> in which the Commission asked the Joint Board to recommend any changes to the Lifeline and Link Up eligibility, verification, and outreach rules that may be necessary given significant technological and marketplace changes since the current

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Board, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 03-109, Public Notice.				rules were adopted.
Deadline for Annual Lifeline Verification Surveys and Certifications, WC Docket No. 03-109, Public Notice.	DA 10-1033 , 25 FCC Rcd 7415 (2010)	6/7/2010		Reminder for August 31 deadline for verification and certification.
Wireline Competition Bureau Establishes the Effective Date for Electronic Disbursement of Universal Service Support Payments, CC Docket No. 02-6, Public Notice.	DA 10-270 , 25 FCC Rcd 7067 (2010)	6/2/2010		Establishes the effective date of August 31, 2010 for the requirement that all federal universal service support payments must be made by electronic funds transfer.
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Lifeline and Link Up, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 03-109, Order.	FCC 10-72	5/4/2010		Asks Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service to review FCC's eligibility, verification, and outreach rules for the Lifeline and Link Up universal service programs, which currently provide discounts on telephone service for low-income customers.
Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comment on Requests for Review by AT&T Inc., T-mobile USA, Inc., and Tracfone Wireless, Inc., Of decisions of the universal service administrator concerning audit findings relating to the low-income program, WC Docket No. 03-109, Public Notice.	DA 10-522 , 25 FCC Rcd 2937 (2010)	3/31/2010		Bureau seeks comment on 3 requests for review of certain USAC low-income support audit findings against Cingular, T-Mobile, and TracFone. In each case, USAC found that the carrier failed to comply with the documentation retention requirements of the Commission's Hurricane Katrina Order.
Lifeline and Link-Up, Petitions for Declaratory Ruling and Requests for Waiver by US Cellular Corporation, <i>et al.</i> , WC Docket No. 03-109, Order and Declaratory Ruling.	FCC 10-25 , 25 FCC Rcd 1641 (2010)	2/2/2010	US Cellular Order	Order addresses petitions for waiver of section 54.410 and six requests for a declaratory ruling concerning FCC's Lifeline certification and verification requirements. Grants requests seeking extension of the June 22, 2005, deadline to submit sample Lifeline verification data in the US Cellular Washington Petition, the ADT Petition, and the VA Cellular Petition. Also grants requests for a declaratory ruling and concludes that when a state commission mandates Lifeline support, but does not

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				impose certification and verification requirements on certain carriers within the state, the affected carriers must follow federal default criteria for certification and verification purposes.
Tracfone Request For Modification Of Condition Adopted In Commission Order Granting Tracfone Forbearance From Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Requirements, CC Docket No. 96-45, Public Notice.	DA-09-1272 , 24 FCC Rcd 7694 (2009)	6/05/2009		Requests that it be allowed to verify annually that its Lifeline customers are heads of households and receive Lifeline-supported service only from TracFone through use of a statistically valid sample of customers.
Virgin Mobile USA, L.P., CC Docket No. 96-45, Order.	FCC-09-18 , 24 FCC Rcd 3381 (2009)	3/05/2009	Virgin Mobile Order	Grants the petition filed by Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. for forbearance from the facilities requirement for ETC designation for Lifeline support only, with conditions.
TracFone Low-Income Support, Letter.	DA 08-2669 , 23 FCC Rcd 17417 (2008)	12/5/2008		Informs USAC that TracFone is not required to obtain certification from every public safety answering point (PSAP) within a state prior to receiving Lifeline support in any part of that state. TracFone is required to obtain certification from each PSAP in those areas where is offers Lifeline service prior to receiving Lifeline support in those areas of the state.
Deadline for Annual Lifeline Verification Surveys and Certifications, WC Docket No. 03-109, Public Notice.	DA 08-1847 , 23 FCC Rcd 11917 (2008)	8/5/2008		Sets September 2, 2008, as deadline for Annual Lifeline Verification Surveys and Certifications in the Low Income Program.
Kansas Corporation Commission Petition for Declaratory Ruling, WC Docket No. 08-55, Public Notice.	DA 08-1060 , 23 FCC Rcd 7203 (2008)	5/2/2008		Seeks comment on a KCC petition for declaratory ruling affirming the lawfulness of its procedure for certifying carriers' receipt of federal universal service support.
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Tracfone Wireless, Inc., Order.	FCC 08-100 , 23 FCC Rcd 6206 (2008)	4/11/2008	TracFone ETC Designation Order	Conditionally designates TracFone Wireless, Inc. as an eligible telecommunications carrier for Lifeline service only in New York, Virginia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee, Delaware, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia.

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2007 Universal Service Monitoring Report, CC Dockets 98-202 and 96-45.	2007 USF Monitoring Report	12/28/2007		Report contains information designed to monitor the impact of various universal service support mechanisms, and the methods used to finance them. 11th report in this series. (Data received through June 2007)
Comprehensive Review of Universal Service Fund Management, Administration, and Oversight, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, Lifeline and Link-Up, Changes to the Board of Directors for the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., WC Docket No. 05-195, CC Docket No. 96-45, CC Docket No. 02-6, WC Docket No. 02-60, WC Docket No. 03-109, CC Docket No. 97-21, Report & Order .	FCC 07-150 , 22 FCC Rcd 16372 (2007)	8/29/2007		Adopts measures to safeguard the USF from waste, fraud, and abuse as well as measures to improve the management, administration, and oversight of the USF. Specifically: Strengthens oversight of the USF contributions process by requiring timely filing of Telecommunications Reporting Worksheets and timely payment of USF contributions; Clarifies current procedures and restructure the rate of interest under the DCIA as amended, that is imposed when contributors fail to make USF contributions on time and apply the same rate to contributors that fail to file properly the FCC Forms 499-A and 499-Q; Adopts document retention requirements and administrative limitation periods for the high-cost, low-income, and rural health care universal service programs, and for USF contributors; Adopt rules for recovery of improperly disbursed funds for the high-cost, low-income, and rural health care universal service programs; Revises FCC debarment rules to include parties who are convicted of criminal violations or held civilly liable for acts arising out of participation in the high-cost, low-income, and rural health care universal service programs; Adopts performance measures for the universal service programs and for the Administrator.
Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Additional Comment on Promoting Deployment and Subscribership In Underserved Areas, Including "Near Reservation" Areas, CC Docket No. 96-45, Public Notice .	DA 07-1239 , 22 FCC Rcd 4862 (2007)	3/12/2007		Seeks to refresh the record on issues raised in the <i>Twelfth Report and Order</i> and <i>Twenty-Fifth Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking</i> related to what constitutes a "near reservation" area for federal Lifeline and Link-Up support purposes.
2006 Universal Service Monitoring	2006 USF Monitoring	12/29/2006		Report contains information designed to monitor the impact of various

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Report, CC Dockets 98-202 and 96-45.	Report			universal service support mechanisms, and the methods used to finance them. Tenth report in this series. (Data received through May 2006)
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Request for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Thumb Cellular Limited Partnership, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order .	DA 06-2355 , 21 FCC Rcd 13539 (2006)	11/22/2006		Clarifies that Section 1.4(j) of the Commission's rules provides that if the filing date falls on a holiday (Saturday, Sunday, officially recognized federal legal holidays, and any other day FCC offices are closed and not reopened prior to 5:30 pm), the document shall be filed on the next business day, regardless if program rules state specific date. Example: If rule states, "must be submitted no later than March 30 each year," and March 30 is a holiday, any filings are due the next business day (e.g., March 31 or April 1).
Deadline for Annual Lifeline Verification Surveys, Public Notice .	DA 06-1391 , 21 FCC Rcd 7184 (2006)	7/3/2006		Wireline Competition Bureau announces that an ETC in a state with its own state-based Low Income program must submit a certification, signed by an officer of the company to USAC by August 31, 2006, attesting that the ETC has complied with the state verification procedures. All ETCs in federal default states must also submit their annual Lifeline verification survey results to USAC by August 31, 2006. Provides answers to frequently asked questions concerning the Lifeline certification and verification procedures.
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism; Rural Health Care Support Mechanism; Lifeline and Link-Up, CC Dockets No. 96-45 and 02-6, WC Dockets No. 02-60 and 03-109, Order .	FCC 05-178 , 20 FCC Rcd 16883 (2005)	10/14/2005	Katrina Relief Order Hurricane Katrina Order	Katrina Relief order; takes immediate steps to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina by making available approximately \$211 million of targeted support from the Universal Service Fund for reconstruction and remediation relating to the restoration of telecommunications services.
Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism; Rural Health Care Support Mechanism; Lifeline and Link-Up, Federal-State	DA 05-2484 , 20 FCC Rcd 14774 (2005)	9/21/2005	Katrina Waiver Order	Katrina Waiver Order; waives procedural rules relating to the Universal Service Fund on an emergency interim basis; State commissions, carriers, and program beneficiaries in the affected areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama may postpone filing certain USF forms,

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Joint Board on Universal Service; CC Docket No. 02-6, WC Dockets No. 02-60 and 03-109, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order.				payments and data for a period of up to one hundred and fifty (150) days.
Baseline Lifeline Study	Baseline Lifeline Study	8/9/2005		Section 1: Baseline Information, Table 1.A, Baseline Lifeline subscription information (Year 2002)
Lifeline and Link-Up, WC Docket No. 03-109, Order.	DA 05-1602 , 20 FCC Rcd 10459 (2005)	6/6/2005		Extends the date to establish certification and verification procedures pursuant to the FCC's <i>Lifeline Order</i> (FCC-04-87) until March 1, 2006.
Lifeline and Link-Up, WC Docket No. 03-109, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.	FCC 04-87 , 19 FCC Rcd 8302 (2004) FCC 04-87 Errata 5/26/04 FCC 04-87 Errata 1/31/05	4/29/2004	Lifeline Order 2004 Lifeline and Link Up Order	Expands the federal default eligibility criteria to include an income-based criterion and additional means-tested programs; adopts federal certification and verification procedures, and require states, under certain circumstances, to establish certification and verification procedures to minimize potential abuse of these programs; adopts outreach guidelines for the Lifeline/Link-Up program; seeks comment on whether the inclusion of a broader income-based criterion in the federal default eligibility criteria would further increase Lifeline/Link-Up subscription rates.
Lifeline and Link-Up, WC Docket No. 03-109, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.	FCC 03-120 , 18 FCC Rcd 11628 (2003)	6/9/2003		Seeks comments on expanding the federal default eligibility criteria to include an income-based criterion and additional means-tested programs; federal certification and verification procedures, and outreach guidelines for the Lifeline/Link-Up program.
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Promoting Deployment and Subscribership in Unserved And Underserved Areas, Including Tribal and Insular Areas, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, CC Docket No. 96-45, Twenty-Fifth Order on Reconsideration, Report and Order,	FCC 03-115 , 18 FCC Rcd 10958 (2003)	5/21/2003		Affirms framework for resolution of ETC designations on tribal lands that provides a reasonable means to facilitate the expeditious resolution of such requests, while balancing the respective federal, state, and tribal interests; clarifies rules regarding the qualification criteria for enhanced Lifeline and Link-Up service; declines to adopt a rule that would require resolution of the merits of any request for ETC designation within six months of the filing date; declines to extend the enhanced low-income programs to the Northern Mariana Islands.

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<i>Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.</i>				
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, <i>Recommended Decision.</i>	FCC 03J-2 , 18 FCC Rcd 6589 (2003)	4/2/2003		Joint Board recommends that the FCC expand the default federal eligibility criteria to include an income-based criterion and additional means-tested programs; Joint Board recommends that the FCC require states, under certain circumstances, to adopt verification procedures; recommends that the FCC provide outreach guidelines for the Lifeline/Link-Up program to more effectively target low-income consumers.
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Seeks Comment on Review of Lifeline and Link-up Service for All Low-income Consumers, <i>Public Notice.</i>	FCC 01J-2 , 16 FCC Rcd 18407 (2001)	10/12/2001		Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service invites comment regarding its review of Lifeline/Link-Up programs.
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Promoting Deployment and Subscribership in Unserved and Underserved Areas, Including Tribal and Insular Areas, CC Docket No. 96-45, <i>Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.</i>	FCC 00-332 , 15 FCC Rcd 17112 (2000) DA-00-2128 Errata 9/20/2000	8/31/2000	Tribal Stay Order and Further Notice	FCC stays implementation of recently adopted federal Lifeline and Link Up assistance rule amendments only to the extent that they apply to qualifying low-income consumers living near reservations; does not affect the implementation of the enhanced Lifeline and Link Up support for qualifying low-income consumers living on reservations, which will become effective on schedule on October 1, 2000; FCC stays the implementation of enhanced Lifeline and Link Up support for low-income consumers living near reservations pending resolution of the issues in a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking additional comment on how to extend the enhanced Lifeline and Link Up measures to qualifying low-income consumers living in areas or communities that are “near reservations.”
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Promoting Deployment and Subscribership in Unserved and	FCC 00-208 , 15 FCC Rcd 12208 (2000)	6/30/2000	Twelfth Report and Order	Adopts measures to: (1) promote telecommunications subscribership and infrastructure deployment within American Indian and Alaska Native tribal communities; (2) establish a framework for the resolution

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Underserved Areas, Including Tribal and Insular Areas, Western Wireless Corporation, Crow Reservation in Montana, Smith Bagley, Inc., Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority, western wireless Corporation, Wyoming, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Bell Atlantic Mobile, Inc., Petitions for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and for Related Waivers to Provide Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, <i>Twelfth Report and Order, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.</i>			Tribal Order	of eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) designation requests under section 214(e)(6)2 of the rules; and (3) apply the framework to pending petitions for designation as ETCs.
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Access Charge Reform, CC Docket No. 96-262, <i>Sixteenth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45, Eighth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-45, Sixth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-262.</i>	FCC 99-290 , 15 FCC Rcd 1679 (2000)	10/8/1999		Response to Fifth Circuit decision affirming in part, remanding in part, and reversing in part the FCC's May 8, 1997 order. Several of the court's rulings in that decision affect the assessment and recovery of universal service contributions, as well as the Lifeline program for low-income consumers. The court's mandate from the decision is scheduled to take effect on November 1, 1999; adopts modifications to our rules consistent with those portions of the court's decision concerning the assessment and recovery of universal service contributions, and the Lifeline program, effective on November 1, 1999.
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Access Charge Reform, Price Cap Performance Review for Local	FCC 97-420 corrected version, 13 FCC Rcd 5318 (1998)	12/30/1997	Fourth Order on Reconsideration	Clarifies or makes further findings regarding: (1) the rules governing the eligibility of carriers and other providers of supported services; (2) methods for determining levels of universal service support for carriers in rural, insular and high cost areas; (3) support for low-income

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Exchange Carriers, Transport Rate Structure and Pricing, End User Common Line Charge, CC Docket Nos. 96-262, 94-1, 91-213, 95-72, Fourth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order in CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 96-262, 94-1, 91-213, 95-72.				consumers; (4) the rules governing the receipt of universal service support under the schools and libraries and rural health care programs; (5) the determinations of who must contribute to the new universal service support mechanisms; and (6) administration of the support mechanisms.
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Access Charge Reform, Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers, Transport Rate Structure and Pricing, End User Common Line Charge, CC Docket Nos. 96-262, 94-1, 91-213, 95-72, Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.	FCC 97-317 , 12 FCC Rcd 13667 (1997)	9/4/1997		Seeks comment on how LECs should recover PICCs for Lifeline consumers who elect to receive toll-blocking services
Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., CC Docket No. 97-21, and Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration.	FCC 97-253 , 12 FCC Rcd 18400 (1997)	7/18/1997	Second Order on Reconsideration	Appointment of NECA as Temporary Administrator, USAC Board of Directors, Functions of USAC, Creation and Functions of High Cost and Low Income Committee, Creation of Schools and Libraries and Rural Health Care Corporations, Boards of Directors of Schools and Libraries and Rural Health Care Corporations, Functions of Schools and Libraries and Rural Health Care Corporations.

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Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order.	FCC 97-157 , 12 FCC Rcd 8776 (1997) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DA No. 97-157, <i>Errata</i>, 6/4/1997 unavailable online ▪ DA No. 97-2477, <i>Errata</i>, 12/3/1997, 12 FCC Rcd 22493 (1997) 	5/8/1997	1997 Universal Service Order First Report and Order Universal Service Report and Order	<i>"First Report and Order"</i> . The FCC implements the mandate for universal service set forth in Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; releases the <i>Universal Service Report and Order</i> implementing section 254 of the Act and establishing a universal service support system that became effective on January 1, 1998.