

Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington, DC

**UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY**

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Federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms Fund Size  
Projections for the First Quarter 2009

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**BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC**

**FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT MECHANISMS  
FUND SIZE PROJECTIONS FOR THE  
FIRST QUARTER 2009**

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***INTRODUCTION***

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The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) hereby submits the federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms fund size and administrative cost projections for the first quarter of calendar year 2009 (1Q2009), in accordance with Section 54.709 of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) rules.<sup>1</sup>

USAC is the not-for-profit corporation responsible for administering the federal Universal Service Fund (USF) and the universal service support mechanisms: High Cost, Low Income, Rural Health Care, and Schools and Libraries.<sup>2</sup> USAC also performs the billing, collection, and disbursement functions for the universal service support mechanisms.

Upon approval of the quarterly funding requirements for the universal service support mechanisms and the projected administrative expenses, and the submission of the contribution base amount, the Commission will establish a quarterly contribution factor. USAC will bill contributors on a monthly basis for their individual obligations based on the approved contribution factor, collect amounts owed from contributors, and distribute funds to eligible recipients based on the schedules filed herein.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.709(a)(3).

<sup>2</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.701.

<sup>3</sup> See 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.709(a)(4), 54.201, 54.203, 54.515, 54.517, 54.301-54.307, 54.407, 54.413, 54.515 and 54.611.

***ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND INTEREST INCOME PROJECTION***

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**ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

Section 54.709(a)(3) of the Commission's rules requires USAC to submit its projected quarterly budget at least 60 days prior to the start of the quarter.<sup>4</sup> USAC includes any costs that can be directly attributed to the High Cost, Low Income, Rural Health Care, and Schools and Libraries Support Mechanisms in the projected administrative expenses of each mechanism. USAC's remaining joint and common costs including costs associated with the billing, collection, and disbursement of funds are included in the projected administrative expenses of the respective support mechanisms based on USAC's methodology for allocating costs submitted to the Commission.<sup>5</sup>

USAC projects a consolidated budget of \$60.53 million for 1Q2009. Direct costs for all support mechanisms total \$49.21 million<sup>6</sup> and are listed for each mechanism in the chart provided below. Joint and common costs (including billing, collection, and disbursement activities) are projected at \$11.32 million and are allocated to each support mechanism as described in the chart below based on the allocation methodology on file with the Commission.

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<sup>4</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.709(a)(3).

<sup>5</sup> On January 1, 2006, USAC implemented a revised methodology for allocating joint and common costs that was filed with the Commission on October 3, 2005. *See* Letter from D. Scott Barash to Marlene H. Dortch regarding Revisions to the Method for Allocating Costs Among the Four Universal Service Support Mechanisms, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45 (Oct. 3, 2005).

<sup>6</sup> This amount includes \$70,000 budgeted each quarter for High Cost data collection performed by the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA)—an independent entity not affiliated with USAC. *See* 47 C.F.R. §§ 36.611-13 and 69.603. Although USAC is required to pay for the data collection, it does not have the ability to directly oversee the effort and cannot verify, monitor, or otherwise evaluate the cost of performing the data collection function. Consistent with the fiduciary obligations of its members to safeguard USAC assets and the USF, USAC's Board of Directors has requested clarification from the Commission concerning this matter. *See* letter from D. Scott Barash, USAC, to Irene Flannery, FCC (Dec. 10, 1999), Comments of the Universal Service Administrative Company to the *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 01-8 (Feb. 26, 2001). *See also*, Comments of the Universal Service Administrative Company to the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in CC Docket No. 05-195, FCC 05-124 (June 14, 2005); and *Reply Comments of the Universal Service Administrative Company* (Dec. 19, 2005).



## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

### *1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2009 Administrative Expenses (in millions)*

<b>USF Mechanism</b>	<b>Direct Costs</b>	<b>USAC Common</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>High Cost</b>	\$11.72	\$5.28	\$17.00
<b>Low Income</b>	1.31	0.67	1.98
<b>Rural Health Care</b>	4.42	0.37	4.79
<b>Schools &amp; Libraries</b>	31.76	5.00	36.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$49.21</b>	<b>\$11.32</b>	<b>\$60.53</b>

Appendix M01 provides USAC's administrative expense budget for 1Q2009.

Appendix M02 provides the fund size projections for 1Q2009.

### **INTEREST INCOME PROJECTION**

For 1Q2009, USAC projects interest income of approximately \$2.01 million for the High Cost Support Mechanism, \$0.76 million for the Low Income Support Mechanism, \$1.08 million for the Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, and \$21.10 million for the Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism. USAC projects total interest income of \$24.95 million. As in previous quarters, projected interest income is being included as an offset to administrative expenses for each of the support mechanisms and reduces the amount that USAC will be required to collect from carriers for those support mechanisms that are funded at caps established by the Commission.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the nine months ended September 30, 2008, on a cash basis, USAC disbursed to beneficiaries \$5,113.77 million in universal service support as follows: \$3,305.06 million in High Cost support, \$615.69 million in Low Income support, \$1,149.58 million in Schools and Libraries support, and \$43.44 million in Rural Health Care support. On a cash basis, the total cash balance available as of September 30, 2008 to the universal service support

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

mechanisms was \$5,568.51 million. On an accrual basis, USAC had a fund balance of \$5,832.42 million at September 30, 2008.

Appendices M03 and M04 provide 2008 year-to-date statements of fund activity on a cash and accrual basis.

### **EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND REDUCE IMPROPER PAYMENTS**

USAC has established a foundation of processes, systems, procedures, and outreach activities to prevent or reduce “improper” payments as defined by the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-300). USAC is also evaluating additional measures that may help to identify or reduce improper payments. USAC has initiated efforts consistent with its February 28, 2008 letter to the Commission identifying additional steps that USAC proposed to take to prevent or reduce potential improper payments and the additional resources needed to implement such measures.<sup>7</sup> Commission staff has directed USAC to report on a quarterly basis its progress in implementing proposed actions to prevent or reduce improper payments and anticipated administrative costs of such actions.<sup>8</sup>

The steps initiated by USAC include additional oversight and managerial controls, strengthened audit and investigative techniques, improved information technology tools, and more effective use of outreach resources. In 1Q2009, USAC will continue efforts identified and initiated earlier in the year to help prevent or reduce improper payments, including:

1. Assessing and strengthening USAC's internal controls. USAC has engaged an independent auditing firm to assess its internal controls program against the requirements of OMB Circular A-123 and to identify best practices that can be used by USAC to improve

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<sup>7</sup> See Letter from D. Scott Barash, Acting Chief Executive Officer, USAC, to Anthony Dale, FCC Managing Director (Feb. 28, 2008, concerning suggested additional steps to reduce or prevent improper payments.

<sup>8</sup> See Letter from Anthony Dale, FCC Managing Director, to D Scott Barash, Acting Chief Executive Officer, USAC (Aug. 18, 2008).

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

internal controls. In addition, USAC plans to increase validation checks for High Cost and Low Income (HCLI) Support Mechanism disbursement calculations and Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism beneficiary compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). The HCLI initiative is dependent on the FCC granting USAC the authority to collect the necessary data. The CIPA validation is planned to be operational by 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2009.

2. *Strengthening audit and investigative techniques.* USAC has been assessing Round 1 FCC Office of Inspector General (OIG) Universal Service Fund (USF) audit program audits where additional work is needed in order to reduce the number of disclaimed and qualified opinions and to provide specific amounts to be recovered. USAC is pursuing the collection of all identified High Cost and Low Income Support Mechanism audit recoveries.

3. *Improving information technology tools.* USAC is preparing a request for proposals (RFP) for the software procurement and systems integration phase of the planned USAC and USF financial systems modernization to provide a more robust, flexible infrastructure to support all aspects of USAC operations. Work was recently completed on the first phase of the project to define requirements for this system.

4. *Expanding and enhancing outreach and education.* USAC has conducted three HCLI Support Mechanism beneficiary workshops to address carrier filing and document retention requirements, program rules and audits. In addition, USAC has provided trainings in seven different locations to applicants of the Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism, including tips for success, audits and eligible services. USAC is also in the planning stages for increasing in 2009 its contributor outreach and education efforts and support mechanism site visits. USAC is also developing a series of online learning modules to provide program participants guidance and instruction in complying with support mechanism rules.

## **Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

USAC estimates that approximately \$3.0 million will be required in 1Q2009 to fund these efforts.

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### ***FUNDING REQUIREMENTS***

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#### **HIGH COST SUPPORT MECHANISM**

##### **ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER (ETC) DESIGNATION**

A requirement of eligibility for receipt of High Cost support is that a common carrier must be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) by a state commission or the FCC in accordance with Subpart F of Part 36 and Subpart D of Part 54 of the Commission's rules.<sup>9</sup> ETCs are eligible to receive funds from the High Cost Support Mechanism,<sup>10</sup> which includes High Cost Loop Support, Interstate Access Support, Local Switching Support, Interstate Common Line Support, and High Cost Model Support. Together, the projected requirements for these five components of the High Cost Support Mechanism and USAC administrative expenses constitute the overall funding requirement for the High Cost Support Mechanism.

The High Cost Support Mechanism provides support to more than 1,900 study areas, including those served by both incumbent and competitive ETCs.

The table below contains the number of study areas served by rural versus non-rural carriers and rate-of-return versus price cap carriers.

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<sup>9</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 214(e); 47 C.F.R. § 54.201.

<sup>10</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 36.631 and 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.301-54.303, 54.309, 54.311, 54.807 and 54.901.

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

Count of Study Areas by Category							
	Incumbent Study Areas					Competitive Study Areas	Total Study Areas
	Rate-of-Return			Price Cap	Total Incumbent		
	Cost Companies	Average Schedule	Total				
<b>Rural</b>	809	438	1,247	105	1,352	279	1,631
<b>Non-Rural</b>	4	1	5	80	85	258	343
<b>Total</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>1,252</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>1,974</b>

### INTERIM HIGH COST SUPPORT CAP FOR COMPETITIVE CARRIERS

Competitive eligible telecommunications carriers' (CETCs) High Cost support was capped with the adoption by the Commission of an interim, industry-wide cap on the amount of high-cost support that CETCs may receive.<sup>11</sup> As of the August 1, 2008 effective date of the Commission's order, total annual CETC support for each state was capped at the level of support that CETCs in that state were eligible to receive during March 2008 on an annualized basis. Projections for each component of the High Cost Support Mechanism will reflect the uncapped CETC support amounts. The total fund requirement, however, will include only the capped CETC support amount. Appendix HC01 provides the High Cost support with capped CETC support projected by state by study area for 1Q2009. Appendix HC01 provides the projected capped amount of individual company support segregated by rural and non-rural status. HC01 also contains the projected per-month capped amounts for the components of High Cost support that each ETC<sup>12</sup> may be eligible to receive. Total fund requirements reflecting uncapped CETC support will also be provided.

Appendix HC01A provides the projected uncapped amount of individual company support segregated by rural and non-rural status. HC01A also contains the projected per-month

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<sup>11</sup> See *In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Alltel Communications, Inc., et al., Petitions for Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers, RCC Minnesota, Inc. and RCC Atlantic, Inc., New Hampshire ETC Designation Amendment*, FCC 08-122 (rel. May 1, 2008). Following publication in the Federal Register, on July 2, 2008, the order became effective on August 1, 2008.

<sup>12</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 36.631 and 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.301-54.303.

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

uncapped amounts for the components of High Cost support that each ETC<sup>13</sup> may be eligible to receive. HC02 provides the total projected capped amount of annualized High Cost support for 1Q2009 for each state and territory. HC03 provides rural study areas with competition. HC04 provides disaggregated per-line High Cost support by zone, consistent with disaggregation plans filed with USAC.

### **HIGH COST RURAL SUPPORT**

#### ***High Cost Loop Support (including Safety Net Additive and Safety Valve Support)***

High Cost Loop (HCL) Support is calculated based on the results of the annual collection of 2006 incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC) loop cost and expense adjustment data that was submitted to the FCC and USAC on October 1, 2007.<sup>14</sup> Growth in total HCL Support for rural LECs is limited under Section 36.603(a) of the Commission's rules to the current level of funding increased yearly by the annual growth in supported rural loops.<sup>15</sup> The *RTF Order*<sup>16</sup> increased HCL Support for rural LECs effective July 1, 2001.

Rural HCL Support for calendar year 2009 will be less than the level of payments for 2008 because of a rural growth factor of negative 2.5597 percent. Rural HCL Support for calendar year 2009, therefore, is capped at \$1,007.80 million.

Pursuant to the *RTF Order*, Safety Net Additive (SNA) Support is support above the HCL cap for carriers that make significant investment in rural infrastructure in years in

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<sup>13</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 36.631 and 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.301-54.303.

<sup>14</sup> Universal Service Fund (USF) 2007 Submission of 2006 Study Results (filed October 1, 2007) (*USF Data Submission*).

<sup>15</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 36.603(a).

<sup>16</sup> See *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Multi-Association Group (MAG) Plan for Regulation of Interstate Services of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256, FCC 01-157, 16 F.C.C. Rcd 11244 (2001) (*RTF Order*).

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

which HCL is capped.<sup>17</sup> To receive support, a rural carrier must show that growth in telecommunications plant in service (TPIS) per line is at least 14 percent greater than the study area's TPIS in the prior year. Carriers seeking to qualify for SNA Support must provide written notice to USAC that a study area meets the 14 percent TPIS trigger.<sup>18</sup> For 1Q2009, projected SNA Support is \$11.53 million.

Also pursuant to the *RTF Order*, Safety Valve Support (SVS) is support above the HCL cap for rural carriers that acquire high cost exchanges and make substantial post-transaction investments to enhance network infrastructure.<sup>19</sup> SVS is 50 percent of the difference between the index year HCL Support amount and the HCL Support amount in subsequent years.<sup>20</sup> SVS is subject to an overall cap of no more than 5 percent of the HCL fund in any given year.<sup>21</sup> For 1Q2009, projected SVS is \$0.50 million.

For 1Q2009, USAC projected HCL Support is \$350.61 million. Of this amount, \$251.81 million is associated with rural incumbent carriers and \$98.79 million is associated with competitive ETCs. In addition, 1Q2009 SNA Support is projected to be \$11.53 million and SVS is projected to be \$0.50 million. Based on these projections, total 1Q2009 HCL support is projected to be \$362.64 million, and total annual 2009 HCL Support is estimated to be \$1,450.55 million.

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<sup>17</sup> See *RTF Order* at ¶¶ 77-90.

<sup>18</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 36.605(c).

<sup>19</sup> See *RTF Order* at ¶¶ 91-119.

<sup>20</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 54.305(c). In an order released on January 10, 2005, the FCC amended Section 54.305 so that it does not apply to transfers of exchanges between non-rural carriers after the phase-down of interim hold harmless support. See *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, National Telephone Cooperative Association Petition for Reconsideration*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 05-1, 20 FCC Rcd 768, 772, ¶ 9 (2005). In addition, the FCC amended Section 54.305 to provide that rural carriers that acquire high cost exchanges may receive SVS for the investment made in the first year of operating the acquired exchanges. *Id.* at ¶ 10.

<sup>21</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 54.305(e).

## **Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

Appendix HC05 provides projected monthly HCL Support payments by study area for 1Q2009. HC06 provides projected monthly SNA Support payments by study area for 1Q2009. HC07 displays SVS for 1Q2009.

### ***Local Switching Support***

ETC study areas having 50,000 or fewer access lines are eligible to receive support for local switching costs.<sup>22</sup> Local Switching Support (LSS) is the product of a carrier's annual unseparated local switching revenue requirement multiplied by its local switching support factor.<sup>23</sup>

For 1Q2009, LSS is projected to be \$16.10 million for incumbent average schedule carriers and \$63.83 million for incumbent cost study carriers. In addition, 1Q2009 LSS for competitive ETCs is projected to be \$29.44 million (capped amount). The uncapped amount is \$36.35 million. USAC projects, therefore, that \$109.37 million will be required for 1Q2009. Based on these projections, total annual 2009 LSS is estimated to be \$473.48 million.

Individual study area LSS projections per month are contained in Appendix HC08.

### **INTERSTATE COMMON LINE SUPPORT**

Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) is designed to permit each rate-of-return carrier to recover its common line revenue requirement, while ensuring that its subscriber line charges (SLCs) remain affordable to its customers.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 54.301.

<sup>23</sup> The LSS factor is defined as the difference between the 1996 weighted interstate Dial Equipment Minute (DEM) factor and the 1996 unweighted DEM factor.

<sup>24</sup> See *Multi-Association Group (MAG) Plan for Regulation of Interstate Services of non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Access Charge Reform for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers Subject to Rate-of-Return Regulation, Prescribing the Authorized Rate of Return for Interstate Services of Local Exchange Carriers*, CC Docket Nos. 00-256, 96-45, 98-77, 98-166, Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 00-256, Fifteenth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket Nos. 98-77 and 98-166, FCC 01-304, 16 FCC Rcd 19613 (2001) (*MAG Order*).



## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

For 1Q2009, ICLS for incumbent rate-of-return carriers is projected to be \$252.44 million. In addition, 1Q2009 ICLS for competitive ETCs is projected to be \$102.85 million (capped amount). The uncapped amount is \$132.39 million. USAC projects, therefore, that \$355.29 million in ICLS will be required for 1Q2009. Based on these projections, total annual 2009 ICLS is estimated to be \$1,514.86 million.

Appendices HC09, HC10 and HC11 provide USAC's 1Q2009 projections of ICLS by study area, per line and by state, respectively. HC22, HC23 and HC24 contain the revised 4Q2008 projections of ICLS by study area, per line and state, respectively. HC28 and HC29 provide the revised projected 2007 to 2008 Program Year ICLS by study area and per line. HC30 and HC31 provide the revised projected 2008 to 2009 Program Year ICLS by study area and per line.

### **INTERSTATE ACCESS SUPPORT**

Interstate Access Support (IAS) helps offset interstate access charges for price cap companies.<sup>25</sup> The *Interstate Access Order* targets the support mechanism at \$650 million annually for five years.<sup>26</sup>

The IAS projected industry-wide totals for 1Q2009 are \$33.93 million for rural incumbent carriers, \$84.67 million for non-rural incumbent carriers, and \$26.82 million is capped for competitive ETCs (\$48.31 million is uncapped competitive ETC support). USAC projects \$145.42 million will be required for 1Q2009 with total annual IAS estimated to be \$581.68 million.

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<sup>25</sup> See *Access Charge Reform, Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers*, CC Docket Nos. 96-262, 94-1, Sixth Report and Order, *Low-Volume Long Distance Users*, CC Docket No. 99-249, Report and Order, *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Eleventh Report and Order, FCC 00-193, 15 FCC Rcd 12962 (2000) (*Interstate Access Order*).

<sup>26</sup> See *Interstate Access Order* at ¶ 201.

## **Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

Appendices HC12, HC13, and HC14 provide USAC's 1Q2009 IAS projected by study area, line, and state, respectively.

### **NON-RURAL FORWARD-LOOKING SUPPORT**

Under the most recent calculation of forward-looking High Cost Model (HCM) Support, non-rural carriers in 10 states (Alabama, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming) are eligible to receive forward-looking support in 2009.<sup>27</sup>

For 1Q2009, USAC projects \$84.12 million will be required for HCM Support, which consists of \$43.80 million for incumbent non-rural carriers and \$40.32 million for competitive ETCs (\$46.03 million is uncapped competitive ETC support). Based on these projections, total annual 2009 HCM Support is estimated to be \$336.48 million.

Appendices HC15, HC16, and HC17 provide USAC's 1Q2009 projections of non-rural forward-looking support by wire center, state, and study area, respectively. Appendices HC25, HC26 and HC27 provide the revised 4Q2008 projections of HCM by wire center, by state and study area, respectively.

### **COMPETITIVE ETC LINES**

Appendix HC18 provides competitive ETC lines reported for HCL Support by incumbent study area. HC19 provides competitive ETC lines reported for ICLS by incumbent study area. HC20 provides competitive ETC lines reported for IAS by incumbent study area. HC21 provides competitive ETC lines reported for HCM Support by incumbent study area.

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<sup>27</sup> See *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order and Order on Reconsideration, DA 03-4070 (rel. Dec. 24, 2003); see also *Wireline Competition Bureau Releases Estimated State-By-State High-Cost Universal Service Support Amounts for Non-Rural Carriers for 2004*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Public Notice, DA 03-4071 (rel. Dec. 24, 2003).

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

### HIGH COST SUPPORT MECHANISM SUMMARY

The estimated 1Q2009 High Cost Support Mechanism funding requirement is \$1,056.84 million, which includes \$362.64 million for HCL Support (including SNA and SVS), \$109.37 million for LSS, \$355.29 million for ICLS, \$145.42 million for IAS, and \$84.12 million for HCM Support. Sections 54.709(b) and 54.709(c) of the Commission's rules require USAC to adjust the size of the projected support requirements to reflect adjustments based on actual dollar amounts compared to the projections included in the prior period.<sup>28</sup> Increases in the size of the funding requirement for the prior period are added to the projected requirements; decreases from the prior period are subtracted from the projected revenue requirements.

Results for the Third Quarter 2008 (3Q2008) contributed to an over-funded condition for which this filing proposes to adjust the 1Q2009 funding requirements. The total adjustment to the 1Q2009 fund requirement based on actual results will decrease the funding needed by \$174.72 million. The explanation for the adjustment is described in the following table:

<b>Reason for the Prior Period Adjustment</b>	<b>Adjustment in Millions</b>
The 3Q2008 billings were higher than projected revenues reported by contributors in their quarterly revenue projections.	(\$103.94)
High Cost Support Mechanism distributions were lower than projected in 3Q2008.	(41.12)
Interest income was higher than estimated for 3Q2008.	(0.01)
Bad debt expense was lower than anticipated.	(24.66)
2007 administrative expenses were lower than anticipated. <sup>29</sup>	(4.99)
<b>Total Prior Period Adjustment</b>	<b>(\$174.72)</b>

<sup>28</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.709(b) and 54.709(c).

<sup>29</sup> USAC performs an annual true-up of actual administrative expenses in its July or November Fund Size Projections Filing submitted to the Commission, depending on when the USAC Board of Directors approves the USAC annual financial audit. This true-up excludes the Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism because that program's administrative expenses are included in its annual funding cap.

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

The total fund requirement of \$1,056.84 million, decreased by the prior-period adjustment of \$174.72 million, increased by administrative costs of \$17.00 million, decreased by projected interest income of \$2.01 million results in a total projected funding requirement for the High Cost Support Mechanism for 1Q2009 of \$897.11 million.

Appendix M02 provides information on the individual components of the funding requirement for the quarter.

### **LOW INCOME SUPPORT MECHANISM**

#### **LIFELINE SUPPORT**

All ETCs must offer Lifeline support to qualified low-income consumers.<sup>30</sup> ETCs providing Lifeline support in accordance with Subpart E of Section 54 of the Commission's rules are entitled to receive funding from the Low Income Support Mechanism for the waiver of charges and reduced rates provided to qualified low-income subscribers.<sup>31</sup> Lifeline support provides funding from the interstate jurisdiction of up to \$10.00 per low-income subscriber per month, which can consist of a baseline amount of between \$3.50 and \$6.50 (Tier One),<sup>32</sup> an additional \$1.75 per subscriber if the state commission authorizes a reduction in local rates equal to that amount (Tier Two), and up to an additional \$1.75 from the mechanism if the state provides support for the low-income subscriber as well (Tier

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<sup>30</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 54.201.

<sup>31</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.401 - 54.417.

<sup>32</sup> Tier One support, which compensates the carrier for not charging the subscriber line charge (SLC) to eligible low-income customers, ranges from \$3.50 to \$6.50. See *Interstate Access Order* at ¶ 70 (permitting the baseline subscriber line charge to increase for price cap carriers from \$3.50 to \$4.35 effective July 1, 2000, and to increase again from \$4.35 to \$5.00 effective July 1, 2001); *MAG Order* at ¶ 42 (permitting rate-of-return carriers to increase their baseline subscriber line charge to \$5.00 effective January 1, 2002); *Cost Review Proceeding for Residential and Single-Line Business Subscriber Line Charge (SLC) Caps, Access Charge Reform, and Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers*, CC Docket Nos. 96-262, 94-1, Order, FCC 02-161 (rel. June 5, 2002) (*2002 SLC Order*) (authorizing an increase in the baseline subscriber line charge for price cap and rate-of-return carriers to \$6.00, effective July 1, 2002, and to \$6.50, effective July 1, 2003).

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

Three).<sup>33</sup> Further, up to an additional \$25 per low-income subscriber per month is available to eligible residents of tribal lands (Tier Four).<sup>34</sup>

For 1Q2009, USAC projects \$192.63 million will be required for Lifeline support. Based on this projection, total annual 2009 Lifeline support is estimated to be \$770.52 million.

### **LINK UP AMERICA**

Link Up support compensates ETCs up to \$30 per eligible subscriber for revenue foregone in offering discounted service initiation fees to qualified low-income individuals.<sup>35</sup> The *Tribal Order* authorized additional Link Up support of up to \$70 per qualified low-income subscriber residing on eligible tribal lands.<sup>36</sup> For 1Q2009, USAC projects that \$10.05 million will be required for Link Up support. Based on this projection, total annual 2009 Link Up support is estimated to be \$40.21 million.

### **TOLL LIMITATION SUPPORT**

Toll Limitation Support (TLS) compensates ETCs for providing voluntary toll-limitation service based on the carrier's incremental cost of providing toll-limitation services. The Commission has defined these costs as the costs that carriers otherwise would not incur if they did not provide toll-limitation service to a given customer.<sup>37</sup> Toll limitation consists of toll blocking, which permits consumers to elect not to allow the completion of

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<sup>33</sup> Tier Three support is equal to one-half of a state-funded amount up to \$3.50. For example, if a carrier operating in a state that has a matching program that provides \$3.50 in support through the matching program reduces its intrastate rates by \$10.00 for low-income customers, the customer would experience a total monthly rate reduction of \$13.50 (\$3.50 in interstate charges and \$10.00 in intrastate charges) of which \$10.00 would be funded from the federal jurisdiction and \$3.50 from the state matching program.

<sup>34</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.400(e).

<sup>35</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.411, .413.

<sup>36</sup> See *Promoting Deployment and Subscribership in Unserved and Underserved Areas, Including Tribal and Insular Areas*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Twelfth Report and Order, Memorandum Opinion and Order, and Further Notice of Proposed Rule-making, (rel. June 30, 2000) (*Tribal Order*).

<sup>37</sup> See *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 8776 (1997) at ¶ 386 (*First Report and Order*) (subsequent history omitted).

**Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

outgoing toll calls, and toll control, which allows consumers to specify a certain amount of toll usage that may be incurred per month or per billing cycle.<sup>38</sup> For 1Q2009, USAC projects that \$2.21 million will be required for TLS. Based on this projection, total annual 2009 TLS is estimated to be \$8.84 million.

**LOW INCOME SUPPORT MECHANISM SUMMARY**

The estimated 1Q2009 Low Income Support Mechanism funding requirement is \$204.89 million, which includes \$192.63 million for Lifeline, \$10.05 million for Link Up, and \$2.21 million for Toll Limitation Service. Results of 3Q2008 contribute to an over-funded condition, for which this filing proposes to adjust the 1Q2009 funding requirement. The total adjustment to the 1Q2009 funding requirement based on actual results will decrease the funding needed by \$20.08 million.

The explanation for the adjustment is described in the following table:

<b>Reason for the Prior Period Adjustment</b>	<b>Adjustment in Millions</b>
The 3Q2008 billings were higher than projected revenues reported by contributors in their quarterly revenue projections.	(\$18.65)
Low Income Support Mechanism distributions were higher than projected in 3Q2008.	4.37
Interest income was lower than estimated for 3Q2008.	0.07
Bad debt expense was lower than anticipated.	(4.36)
2007 administrative expenses were lower than anticipated. <sup>39</sup>	(1.51)
<b>Total Prior Period Adjustment</b>	<b>(\$20.08)</b>

The total fund requirement of \$204.89 million, decreased by the prior period adjustment of \$20.80 million, increased for administrative expenses of \$1.98 million,

<sup>38</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.400(b) and (c).

<sup>39</sup> USAC performs an annual true-up of actual administrative expenses in its July or November Fund Size Projections Filing submitted to the Commission, depending on when the USAC Board of Directors approves the USAC annual financial audit. This true-up excludes the Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism because that program's administrative expenses are included in its annual funding cap.

## **Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

decreased by projected interest income of \$0.76 million results in a total projected funding requirement for the Low Income Support Mechanism for 1Q2009 of \$186.03 million.

Appendix LI01 provides projected Low Income support amounts by state and study area for 1Q2009. LI02 provides detail on Low Income funding amounts available in each of the states and territories for 1Q2009. LI03 provides a list of ETCs for 3Q2008. LI04 provides detail on quarterly company-specific Low Income support disbursement amounts for 3Q2008. LI05 provides detail on annual company-specific Low Income support amounts through 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008 (2Q2008). LI06 provides historical data of monthly support amounts claimed by ETCs from January 1998 through September 30, 2008. LI07 provides detail on Low Income support distributed by state for 2001 through 2Q2008. LI08 and LI09 provide subscriber information by state and jurisdiction for Lifeline and Link Up support, respectively. LI10 shows the Tier 1 amounts reported by all companies during 2Q2008.

### **RURAL HEALTH CARE SUPPORT MECHANISM**

Following is a summary of Rural Health Care Support Mechanism commitments and disbursements for Funding Years 2003-08 as of September 30, 2008. Prior funding years are closed.

#### **FUNDING YEAR 2003**

Funding Year 2003 began on July 1, 2003 and ended on June 30, 2004. As of September 30, 2008, funding commitments have been issued totaling \$27.91 million. Based on information provided by applicants, USAC now estimates Funding Year 2003 demand will be \$25.77 million. The Commission previously authorized collection of \$25.77 million for Funding Year 2003.

Authorized funding by applicant during 3Q2008 and disbursements made to service

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

providers during 3Q2008 are listed in Appendices RH01 and RH02, respectively.

### **FUNDING YEAR 2004**

Funding Year 2004 began on July 1, 2004 and ended on June 30, 2005. As of September 30, 2008, a total of 2,947 FCC Form 465s were posted. In addition, a total of 4,739 FCC Form 466 packets<sup>40</sup> and 466-A packets were received.

As of September 30, 2008, funding commitments have been issued totaling \$35.54 million. Based on information provided by applicants, USAC now estimates Funding Year 2004 demand will be \$31.18 million. The Commission previously authorized collection of \$31.18 million for Funding Year 2004.

### **FUNDING YEAR 2005**

Funding Year 2005 began on July 1, 2005 and ended on June 30, 2006. As of September 30, 2008, a total of 3,449 FCC Form 465s were posted and 5,549 packets were received. Applications increased in Funding Year 2005 due to the one time provision of Rural Health Care support under the Hurricane Katrina Relief Order.<sup>41</sup>

The status of Funding Year 2005 packets is provided in the following table:

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<sup>40</sup> The term "packet" is used describe the basic Rural Health Care Program application processing unit. An applicant may request support up to four segments of a multi-billed circuit on FCC Form 466. Each segment of the circuit is processed as one packet. A Form 466-A constitutes one packet for USAC tracking purposes.

<sup>41</sup> See *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, Lifeline and Link-Up*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 02-6, WC Docket Nos. 02-60, 03-109, Order, FCC 05-178 (rel. Oct. 14, 2005) (*Katrina Order*). In addition, the Commission had previously taken steps to provide relief to parties affected by Hurricane Katrina by extending deadlines and modifying recordkeeping and other USF procedural requirements. See *Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, Lifeline and Link-Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 02-6, WC Docket Nos. 02-60, 03-109, CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 05-2484 (rel. Sept. 21, 2005).



## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2005 PACKET PROCESSING</b>	
Packets Completely Processed	4,821
Packets Awaiting Supervisory Approval Only	0
Complete – Ready to Process	0
Withdrawn by Applicant	537
Denied	135
Duplicate	56
Incomplete – Require Forms and/or Clarification	0
<b>Total Packets Received as of 9/30/2008 for Funding Year 2005</b>	<b>5,549</b>

As of September 30, 2008, funding commitments have been issued totaling \$41.69 million. Based on information provided by applicants, USAC now estimates Funding Year 2005 demand will be \$41.02 million. The Commission previously authorized collection of \$41.03 million for Funding Year 2005. Considering the revised demand estimate for Funding Year 2005, USAC recommends the Commission decrease collections for Funding Year 2005 by \$0.01 million in 1Q2009.

Authorized funding by applicant during 3Q2008 and disbursements made to service providers through 3Q2008 are listed in Appendices RH03 and RH04, respectively.

### **FUNDING YEAR 2006**

Funding Year 2006 began on July 1, 2006 and ended on June 30, 2007. The filing window for Funding Year 2006 opened on March 13, 2006.

All applications for Funding Year 2006 have been processed and funding commitments issued, but over 300 applicants and over \$4.73 million remains to be disbursed because applicants have not yet returned the required Form 467s to confirm the funding commitments or service providers have not invoiced for support provided. Over \$0.6 million of denied support is also pending on appeal.

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

On September 29, 2006, the FCC released an order establishing a new two-year (Funding Years 2006 and 2007, which was revised in a subsequent order to include three funding years (*see below and infra note 46*)) Rural Health Care Support Mechanism Pilot Program to cover “up to 85 percent of an applicant’s costs of deploying a dedicated broadband network.”<sup>42</sup> The application window for the Pilot Program opened on March 8, 2007 and closed on May 7, 2007.<sup>43</sup> On November 19, 2007, the FCC released an order awarding \$417.78 million in support to 69 applications over funding years 2007, 2008 and 2009.<sup>44</sup> Support under the Pilot Program is capped at \$139.26 million in each of these three funding years. The Commission stated that monies collected in funding year 2006 for the Pilot Program should be applied to Funding Year 2007, resulting in \$54.44 million of funds collected for Funding Year 2006 being reallocated to Funding Year 2007.

The status of Funding Year 2006 packets is provided in the following table:

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2006 PACKET PROCESSING</b>	
Packets Completely Processed	5,225
Packets Awaiting Supervisory Approval Only	0
Complete – Ready to Process	0
Withdrawn by Applicant	520
Denied	159
Duplicate	12
Incomplete – Require Forms and/or Clarification	0
<b>Total Packets Received as of 9/30/2008 for Funding Year 2006</b>	<b>5,916</b>

<sup>42</sup> *In the Matter of the Rural Health Care Support Mechanism*, FCC 06-144, 2006 WL 2819579 (F.C.C.) (rel. Sept. 29, 2006). See also, *Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comment on the Petition for Reconsideration or, in the Alternative, Clarification Filed by National LambdaRail, Inc.*, WC 02-60, DA 06-2279 (rel. November 6, 2006); *FCC Expands Eligibility to Include National LambdaRail’s Backbone in Rural Health Care Pilot*, FCC 07-6 (rel. February 7, 2007).

<sup>43</sup> *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces OMB Approval of the Rural Health Care Pilot Program Information Collection Requirements and the Deadline for Filing Applications*, DA 07-1188 (rel. March 9, 2007).

<sup>44</sup> See *In the Matter of the Rural Health Care Support Mechanism*, FCC 07-198 (rel. November 19, 2007).

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

As of September 30, 2008, funding commitments have been issued totaling \$46.38 million. Based on information provided by applicants, USAC now estimates Funding Year 2006 demand will be \$45.46 million. The Commission previously authorized collection of \$45.46 million for Funding Year 2006.

Funding commitments made during 3Q2008 are included in Appendix RH05. Authorized funding by applicant during 3Q2008 and disbursements made to service providers during 3Q2008 are listed in Appendices RH06 and RH07, respectively.

### **FUNDING YEAR 2007**

Funding Year 2007 began on July 1, 2007 and ended on June 30, 2008. The filing window for Funding Year 2007 opened on March 12, 2007. As of September 30, 2008, a total of 3,564 Form 465s were posted and 6,545 packets were received.

The status of Funding Year 2007 packets is provided in the following table:

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2007 PACKET PROCESSING</b>	
Packets Completely Processed	3,786
In Review	1,470
Withdrawn by Applicant	315
Denied	26
Duplicate	21
Incomplete – Require Forms and/or Clarification	927
<b>Total Packets Received as of 9/30/2008 for Funding Year 2007</b>	<b>6,545</b>

As of September 30, 2008, funding commitments have been issued totaling \$42.10 million. The demand estimate remains well above committed support and is expected to continue to change as new applications are reviewed. The projected demand for the regular program has decreased by \$0.01 million, while Pilot Program support remains at the \$139.26 million cap. On January 17, 2008, the Commission clarified that Pilot Program participants could roll support not used in one year to a subsequent funding year, but for administrative

## **Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

simplicity, USAC will wait to roll funds forward until all 2007 Pilot Program support requests have been fulfilled or it becomes necessary because a participant seeks a commitment of their combined 2007 and 2008 support caps. Based on information provided by applicants, as of September 30, 2008, USAC estimates Funding Year 2007 demand will be \$52.87 million. The Commission previously authorized collection of \$52.88 million for Funding Year 2007. Considering the revised demand estimate for Funding Year 2007, USAC recommends the Commission decrease collections for Funding Year 2007 by \$0.01 million in 1Q2009.

Funding commitments made during 3Q2008 are included in Appendix RH08. Authorized funding by applicant during 3Q2008 and disbursements made to service providers during 3Q2008 are listed in Appendices RH09 and RH10, respectively.

### **FUNDING YEAR 2008**

Funding Year 2008 began on July 1, 2008 and will end on June 30, 2009. The window for Funding Year 2008 opened on April 8, 2008.

USAC recommends the Commission authorize collection from USF contributors for the Rural Health Care Support Mechanism of \$14.70 million plus one-quarter of the Pilot Program's \$139.26 million annual cap in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2009.

### **RURAL HEALTH CARE SUPPORT MECHANISM SUMMARY**

The estimated 1Q2009 Rural Health Care Support Mechanism demand requirement is \$49.49 million (\$49.51 million for Funding Year 2008, minus \$0.01 for Funding Year 2007, minus \$0.01 for Funding Year 2005).

The results of 3Q2008 contributed to an over-funded condition of \$21.39 million, for which this filing proposes to adjust the 1Q2009 funding requirements. The total adjustment to the 1Q2009 funding requirement based on actual results will decrease the

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

funding needed by \$21.39 million. The explanation for the adjustment is provided in the following table:

<b>Reason for the Prior Period Adjustment</b>	<b>Adjustment in Millions</b>
The 3Q2008 billings were higher than projected revenues reported by contributors in their quarterly revenue projections.	\$(18.83)
Interest income was higher than estimated for 3Q2008.	(0.23)
Bad debt expense was lower than anticipated.	(1.15)
2007 administrative expenses were lower than anticipated. <sup>45</sup>	(1.18)
<b>Total Prior Period Adjustment</b>	<b>\$(21.39)</b>

The total fund requirement of \$49.49 million, decreased by the prior-period adjustment of \$21.39 million, increased by administrative expenses of \$4.79 million, decreased by projected interest income of \$1.08 million results in a total projected funding requirement for the Rural Health Care Support Mechanism for 1Q2009 of \$31.81 million.

### **SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES SUPPORT MECHANISM**

Following is a summary of Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism net commitments<sup>46</sup> and net authorized for payment<sup>47</sup> by funding year as of September 30, 2008.

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<sup>45</sup> USAC performs an annual true-up of actual administrative expenses in its July or November Fund Size Projections Filing submitted to the Commission, depending on when the USAC Board of Directors approves the USAC annual financial audit. This true-up excludes the Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism because that program's administrative expenses are included in its annual funding cap.

<sup>46</sup> Net Commitments are the amount of total funding commitments (including appeals, less funding commitment adjustments (COMADs) and other recaptures) reduced by the remaining dollar amount of commitments that had not been fully disbursed by their invoicing deadline.

<sup>47</sup> Net authorized for payment is the amount of total approved invoices less any returned funds.

**Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

**FUNDING YEAR 1998**

<b>FUNDING YEAR 1998</b>					
	<b>Net Commitments</b>		<b>Net Authorized for Payment</b>		<b>Auth/Com</b>
	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Commitments</b>	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Authorized for Payment</b>	<b>% of Committed Authorized for Payment</b>
Telecommunications	\$ 675.85	39.85%	\$ 507.57	36.28%	75.10%
Internet Access	\$ 134.14	7.91%	\$ 94.83	6.78%	70.69%
Internal Connections	\$ 886.05	52.24%	\$ 796.54	56.94%	89.90%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,696.04</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$1,398.94</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>82.48%</b>
Deobligations due to Expired FRNs	(\$ 297.10)				
<b>Net Commitments</b>	<b>\$1,398.94</b>				

No Funding Year 1998 applications remained in the program integrity assurance (PIA) review process. Funding Year 1998 began on January 1, 1998 and ended on June 30, 1999. No payments were made to service providers during 3Q2008 for Funding Year 1998.

**FUNDING YEAR 1999**

<b>FUNDING YEAR 1999</b>					
	<b>Net Commitments</b>		<b>Net Authorized for Payment</b>		<b>Auth/Com</b>
	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Commitments</b>	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Authorized for Payment</b>	<b>% of Committed Authorized for Payment</b>
Telecommunications	\$ 633.99	29.48%	\$ 452.91	27.37%	71.44%
Internet Access	\$ 149.57	6.96%	\$ 95.72	5.79%	64.00%
Internal Connections	\$1,366.66	63.56%	\$1,105.91	66.84%	80.92%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,150.22</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$1,654.54</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>76.95%</b>
Deobligations due to Expired FRNs	(\$ 495.02)				
<b>Net Commitments</b>	<b>\$1,655.20</b>				

No Funding Year 1999 applications remained in the PIA review process. Funding Year 1999 began on July 1, 1999 and ended on June 30, 2000.

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

Authorized funding by applicant during 3Q2008 and cumulative payments made to service providers through 3Q2008 are listed in Appendices SL01 and SL02, respectively.

### FUNDING YEAR 2000

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2000</b>					
	Net Commitments		Net Authorized for Payment		Auth/Com
	Millions of Dollars	% of Total Commitments	Millions of Dollars	% of Total Authorized for Payment	% of Committed Authorized for Payment
Telecommunications	\$ 720.28	34.72%	\$ 481.12	29.18%	66.80%
Internet Access	\$ 219.23	10.57%	\$ 133.45	8.09%	60.87%
Internal Connections	\$1,134.74	54.71%	\$1,034.43	62.73%	91.16%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,074.25</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$1,649.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>79.50%</b>
Deobligations due to Expired FRNs	(\$ 423.40)				
<b>Net Commitments</b>	<b>\$1,650.85</b>				

No Funding Year 2000 applications remained in the PIA review process. Funding Year 2000 began on July 1, 2000 and ended on June 30, 2001. No payments were made to service providers during 3Q2008 for Funding Year 2000.

**Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

**FUNDING YEAR 2001**

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2001</b>					
	<b>Net Commitments</b>		<b>Net Authorized for Payment</b>		<b>Auth/Com</b>
	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Commitments</b>	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Authorized for Payment</b>	<b>% of Committed Authorized for Payment</b>
Telecommunications	\$ 775.53	35.51%	\$ 540.00	31.83%	69.63%
Internet Access	\$ 224.85	10.29%	\$ 149.38	8.80%	66.44%
Internal Connections	\$1,183.91	54.20%	\$ 1007.15	59.37%	85.07%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,184.29</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$1,696.53</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>77.67%</b>
Deobligations due to Expired FRNs	(\$ 481.41)				
<b>Net Commitments</b>	<b>\$1,702.88</b>				

As of September 30, 2008, two potentially fundable Funding Year 2001 applications remained in the PIA review process. Funding Year 2001 began on July 1, 2001 and ended on June 30, 2002.

Authorized funding by applicant during 3Q2008 and cumulative payments made to service providers through 3Q2008 are listed in Appendices SL03 and SL04, respectively.



**Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

**FUNDING YEAR 2002**

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2002</b>					
	<b>Net Commitments</b>		<b>Net Authorized for Payment</b>		<b>Auth/Com</b>
	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Commitments</b>	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Authorized for Payment</b>	<b>% of Committed Authorized for Payment</b>
Telecommunications	\$ 857.30	37.97%	\$ 612.87	38.69%	71.49%
Internet Access	\$ 250.37	11.09%	\$ 170.79	10.78%	68.22%
Internal Connections	\$1,150.23	50.94%	\$ 800.57	50.53%	69.60%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,257.90</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$1,584.23</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>70.16%</b>
Deobligations due to Expired FRNs	(\$ 592.05)				
<b>Net Commitments</b>	<b>\$1,665.85</b>				

As of September 30, 2008, two potentially fundable Funding Year 2002 applications remained in the PIA review process. Funding Year 2002 began on July 1, 2002 and ended on June 30, 2003.

Authorized funding by applicant during 3Q2008 and cumulative payments to service providers through 3Q2008 are listed in Appendices SL05 and SL06, respectively.

**Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

**FUNDING YEAR 2003**

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2003</b>					
	<b>Net Commitments</b>		<b>Net Authorized for Payment</b>		<b>Auth/Com</b>
	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Commitments</b>	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Authorized for Payment</b>	<b>% of Committed Authorized for Payment</b>
Telecommunications	\$ 907.61	33.33%	\$ 657.64	33.88%	72.46%
Internet Access	\$ 277.90	10.20%	\$ 203.57	10.49%	73.25%
Internal Connections	\$1,537.75	56.47%	\$1,079.94	55.63%	70.23%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,723.26</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$1,941.15</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>71.28%</b>
Deobligations due to Expired FRNs	(\$ 721.68)				
<b>Net Commitments</b>	<b>\$2,001.58</b>				

As of September 30, 2008, seven potentially fundable Funding Year 2003 applications remained in the PIA review process. Funding Year 2003 began on July 1, 2003 and ended on June 30, 2004.

Authorized funding by applicant during 3Q2008 and cumulative payments to service providers through 3Q2008 are listed in Appendices SL07 and SL08, respectively.

**Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

**FUNDING YEAR 2004**

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2004</b>					
	<b>Net Commitments</b>		<b>Net Authorized for Payment</b>		<b>Auth/Com</b>
	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Commitments</b>	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Authorized for Payment</b>	<b>% of Committed Authorized for Payment</b>
Telecommunications	\$ 947.38	42.33%	\$ 683.47	45.16%	71.14%
Internet Access	\$ 245.00	10.95%	\$ 191.69	12.66%	78.24%
Internal Connections	\$1,045.65	46.72%	\$ 638.40	42.18%	61.05%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,238.03</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$1,513.56</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>67.63%</b>
Deobligations due to Expired FRNs	(\$ 662.74)				
<b>Net Commitments</b>	<b>\$1,575.29</b>				

As of September 30, 2008, 59 potentially fundable Funding Year 2004 applications remained in the PIA review process. Funding Year 2004 began on July 1, 2004 and ended on June 30, 2005.

Authorized funding by applicant during 3Q2008 and cumulative payments to service providers through 3Q2008 are listed in Appendices SL09 and SL10, respectively.

**Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

**FUNDING YEAR 2005**

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2005</b>					
	<b>Net Commitments</b>		<b>Net Authorized for Payment</b>		<b>Auth/Com</b>
	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Commitments</b>	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Authorized for Payment</b>	<b>% of Committed Authorized for Payment</b>
Telecommunications	\$ 964.74	45.51%	\$ 754.09	49.51%	78.17%
Internet Access	\$ 264.07	12.46%	\$ 212.05	13.92%	80.30%
Internal Connections	\$ 757.49	35.73%	\$ 466.55	30.63%	61.59%
Internal Connections-Maint	\$ 133.71	6.30%	\$ 90.44	5.94%	67.64%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,120.01</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$1,523.13</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>71.85%</b>
Deobligations due to Expired FRNs	(\$ 401.70)				
<b>Net Commitments</b>	<b>\$1,718.31</b>				

As of September 30, 2008, 83 potentially fundable Funding Year 2005 applications remained in the PIA review process. Funding Year 2005 began on July 1, 2005 and ended on June 30, 2006.

Funding commitments made to applicants during 3Q2008 are included in Appendix SL11. Authorized funding by applicant and cumulative payments to service providers through 3Q2008 are listed in Appendices SL12 and SL13, respectively.

**Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

**FUNDING YEAR 2006**

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2006</b>					
	<b>Net Commitments</b>		<b>Net Authorized for Payment</b>		<b>Auth/Com</b>
	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Commitments</b>	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Authorized for Payment</b>	<b>% of Committed Authorized for Payment</b>
Telecommunications	\$1,070.62	53.72%	\$ 818.94	56.57%	76.49%
Internet Access	\$ 290.18	14.56%	\$ 230.09	15.89%	79.29%
Internal Connections	\$ 508.69	25.52%	\$ 313.85	21.68%	61.70%
Internal Connections-Maint	\$ 123.52	6.20%	\$ 84.81	5.86%	68.66%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,993.01</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$1,447.69</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>72.64%</b>
Deobligations due to Expired FRNs	(\$ 347.98)				
<b>Net Commitments</b>	<b>\$1,645.03</b>				

As of September 30, 2008, 181 potentially fundable Funding Year 2006 applications remained in the PIA review process. Funding Year 2006 began on July 1, 2006 and ended on June 30, 2007.

Funding commitments made to applicants during 3Q2008 are included in Appendix SL14. Authorized funding by applicant and cumulative payments to service providers through 3Q2008 are listed in Appendices SL15 and SL16, respectively.

**Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

**FUNDING YEAR 2007**

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2007</b>					
	<b>Net Commitments</b>		<b>Net Authorized for Payment</b>		<b>Auth/Com</b>
	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Commitments</b>	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Authorized for Payment</b>	<b>% of Committed Authorized for Payment</b>
Telecommunications	\$1,188.42	47.68%	\$582.88	55.51%	49.05%
Internet Access	\$ 310.81	12.47%	\$193.41	18.42%	62.23%
Internal Connections	\$ 834.86	33.50%	\$188.38	17.94%	22.56%
Internal Connections-Maint	\$ 158.27	6.35%	\$ 85.33	8.13%	53.91%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,492.36</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$1,050.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>42.13%</b>

As of September 30, 2008, 417 potentially fundable Funding Year 2007 applications remained in the PIA review process. Funding Year 2007 began on July 1, 2007 and ended on June 30, 2008.

Funding commitments made to applicants during 3Q2008 are included in Appendix SL17. Authorized funding by applicant and cumulative payments to service providers through 3Q2008 are listed in Appendices SL18 and SL19, respectively.

**FUNDING YEAR 2008**

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2008</b>					
	<b>Net Commitments</b>		<b>Net Authorized for Payment</b>		<b>Auth/Com</b>
	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Commitments</b>	<b>Millions of Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total Authorized for Payment</b>	<b>% of Committed Authorized for Payment</b>
Telecommunications	\$ 813.25	61.40%	\$ 13.71	45.41%	1.69%
Internet Access	\$ 215.30	16.26%	\$ 10.44	34.59%	4.85%
Internal Connections	\$ 266.13	20.09%	\$ 2.31	7.65%	0.87%
Internal Connections-Maint	\$ 29.84	2.25%	\$ 3.73	12.35%	12.50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,324.52</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 30.19</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>2.28%</b>

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

As of September 30, 2008, 8,762 potentially fundable Funding Year 2008 applications remained in the PIA review process. Funding Year 2008 began on July 1, 2008 and will end on June 30, 2009.

Funding commitments made to applicants during 3Q2008 are included in Appendix SL20. Authorized funding by applicant and cumulative payments to service providers through 3Q2008 are listed in Appendices SL21 and SL22, respectively.

### **SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES SUPPORT MECHANISM SUMMARY**

In a series of actions from December 1999 through December 2002, the Commission used a net total of \$477.16 million of undisbursed Funding Year 1998 Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism funds to reduce USF collection requirements. Consistent with the Commission's direction in the Schools and Libraries First Report and Order, a total of \$852.12 million of undisbursed Funding Years 1999 and 2000 collections were used to stabilize USF contributions and offset collections for 3rd Quarter 2002 (3Q2002), 4th Quarter 2002 (4Q2002), and 1st Quarter 2003 (1Q2003).<sup>48</sup>

In the *Schools and Libraries Third Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, the Commission amended its rules to allow unused funds from prior funding years to be carried forward on an annual basis in the second quarter of each calendar year for use in the next full funding year.<sup>49</sup> The Commission required USAC to file quarterly estimates of unused funds from prior funding years in submitting its projection of Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism demand for the upcoming quarter. The Commission modified the schedule to implement the process for Funding Year 2003 and directed USAC

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<sup>48</sup> See *Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, CC Docket No. 02-6, First Report and Order, FCC 02-175 (June 13, 2002) (*Schools and Libraries First Report and Order*).

<sup>49</sup> See *Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, CC Docket 02-6, Third Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 03-323 (December 23, 2003) (*Schools and Libraries Third Report and Order*).

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

to carry forward \$420 million of unused prior year funds for use in Funding Year 2003.<sup>50</sup> In accordance with the *Schools and Libraries Third Report and Order*, the Commission announced that \$150 million in unused funds from Funding Year 2001 would be carried forward to increase disbursements to schools and libraries in Funding Year 2004.<sup>51</sup>

On June 11, 2007, the Commission instructed USAC to carry forward \$650 million in unused funds to Funding Year 2007.<sup>52</sup> The funds were carried forward from Funding Years 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 in the amount of \$50 million, \$300 million, \$150 million and \$150 million, respectively. On June 23, 2008, the Commission instructed USAC to carry forward \$600 million in unused funds to Funding Year 2008.<sup>53</sup> The funds are to be carried forward from Funding Years 2002, 2003 and 2004 in the amount of \$150 million, \$200 million and \$250 million, respectively.

The following sections provide information regarding the use of funds for each funding year, including adjustments made by the Commission and projections of unused funds as required by Commission rules.

### ***Funding Year 1998 True-Up***

As of September 30, 2008, \$1,398.94 million of Funding Year 1998 support had been authorized for disbursement. USAC estimates that a contingency amount of \$7.11 million should be reserved to pay appeals pending at the Commission and to pay invoices on Funding Year 1998 funding requests that may be granted extended invoice deadlines pursuant to Commission orders. Given these requirements and to preserve the contingency

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<sup>50</sup> *Id.*

<sup>51</sup> See *Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, CC Docket No. 02-6, *Carryover of Unused Funds for Funding Year 2004*, DA 04-1848 (June 28, 2004).

<sup>52</sup> See *Schools and Libraries Universal Support Mechanism*, CC Docket No. 02-06, *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Carryover of Unused Funds for Funding Year 2007*, DA 07-2470 (June 1, 2007).

<sup>53</sup> See *Schools and Libraries Universal Support Mechanism*, CC Docket No. 02-06, *Carryover of Unused Federal Universal Service Funds for Funding Year 2008*, DA 08-1470 (rel. June 23, 2008).



## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

amount, no Funding Year 1998 funds are available to carry forward. The estimated remaining Funding Year 1998 balance is determined as follows:

<b>FUNDING YEAR 1998</b>	<b>Amounts in Millions</b>
Amount Authorized and Actually Collected	\$1,925.00
Amount Authorized for Disbursement	(1,398.94)
Administrative Expenses (21 months)	(41.79)
Amount Applied to Adjust 2000, 2001, and 2002 Collections	(477.16)
Contingency Amount for Pending Appeals and Invoice Deadline Extension Requests	(7.11)
<b>Estimated Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

### *Funding Year 1999 True-Up*

As of September 30, 2008, \$1,654.54 million of Funding Year 1999 support had been authorized for disbursement. USAC's projection of the remaining Funding Year 1999 funds includes an estimate of funds needed to pay additional disbursements on committed funding requests and a contingency reserve to pay pending appeals and make disbursements on Funding Year 1999 funding requests that may be granted extended invoice deadlines pursuant to Commission orders. Given these requirements and to preserve the contingency amount, USAC estimates that no Funding Year 1999 funds are available to carry forward.

The estimated remaining Funding Year 1999 balance is determined as follows:

<b>FUNDING YEAR 1999</b>	<b>Amounts in Millions</b>
Amount Authorized and Actually Collected	\$2,250.00
Amount Authorized for Disbursement	(1,654.54)
Administrative Expenses	(32.32)
Amount Applied to Adjust Third Quarter 2002 Collections	(256.16)
Amount Applied to Adjust Fourth Quarter 2002 Collections	(212.93)
Amount Carried Forward to Funding Year 2003	(50.00)
Potential Additional Disbursements on Committed FRNs	(0.66)
Contingency Amount for Pending Appeals and Invoice Deadline Extension Requests	(43.39)
<b>Estimated Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

### *Funding Year 2000 True-Up*

As of September 30, 2008, \$1,649.00 million of Funding Year 2000 support had been

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

authorized for disbursement. USAC's projection of the remaining Funding Year 2000 funds includes estimates of funds needed to pay additional disbursements on committed funding requests and disbursements on remaining requests that have not received funding commitments, as well as a contingency reserve to pay pending appeals and make disbursements on Funding Year 2000 funding requests that may be granted extended invoice deadlines pursuant to Commission orders. Given these requirements and to preserve the contingency amount, USAC estimates that no Funding Year 2000 funds are available to carry forward. The estimated remaining Funding Year 2000 balance is determined as follows:

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2000</b>	<b>Amounts in Millions</b>
Amount Authorized and Actually Collected	\$2,250.00
Amount Authorized for Disbursement	(1,649.00)
Administrative Expenses	(32.24)
Amount Applied to Adjust Fourth Quarter 2002 Collections	(136.85)
Amount Applied to Adjust First Quarter 2003 Collections	(246.18)
Amount Carried Forward to Funding Year 2003	(160.00)
Potential Additional Disbursements on Committed FRNs	(1.84)
Contingency Amount for Pending Appeals and Invoice Deadline Extension Requests	(23.89)
<b>Estimated Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

### *Funding Year 2001 True-Up*

As of September 30, 2008, \$1,696.53 million of Funding Year 2001 support had been authorized for disbursement. USAC's projection of the remaining Funding Year 2001 funds includes estimates of funds needed to pay additional disbursements on committed funding requests and disbursements on remaining requests that have not yet received funding commitments, as well as a contingency reserve to pay pending appeals and make disbursements on Funding Year 2001 funding requests that may be granted extended invoice deadlines pursuant to Commission orders. Given these requirements, USAC estimates that \$50 million of Funding Year 2001 funds are available to carry forward. The estimated remaining Funding Year 2001 balance is determined as follows:

**Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2001</b>	<b>Amounts in Millions</b>
Amount Authorized and Actually Collected	\$ 2,250.00
Amount Authorized for Disbursement	(1,696.53)
Administrative Expenses	(30.56)
Amount Carried Forward to Funding Year 2003	(210.00)
Amount Carried Forward to Funding Year 2004	(150.00)
Amount Carried Forward to Funding Year 2007	(50.00)
Potential Additional Disbursements on Committed FRNs	(6.36)
Remaining Uncommitted Requests	(20.33)
Contingency Amount for Pending Appeals and Invoice Deadline Extension Requests	(36.22)
<b>Estimated Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>

***Funding Year 2002 True-Up***

As of June 30, 2008, \$1,584.23 million of Funding Year 2002 support had been authorized for disbursement. USAC's projection of the remaining Funding Year 2002 funds includes estimates of funds needed to pay additional disbursements on committed funding requests and disbursements on requests that have not yet received funding commitments, as well as a contingency reserve to pay pending appeals and make disbursements on Funding Year 2002 funding requests that may be granted extended invoice deadlines pursuant to Commission orders. Given these requirements, USAC estimates that \$50.00 million of Funding Year 2002 funds are available to carry forward. The estimated remaining Funding Year 2002 balance is determined as follows:

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2002</b>	<b>Amounts in Millions</b>
Amount Authorized and Actually Collected	\$2,250.00
Amount Authorized for Disbursement	(1,584.23)
Administrative Expenses	(38.53)
Amount Carried Forward to Funding Year 2007	(300.00)
Amount Carried Forward to Funding Year 2008	(150.00)
Potential Additional Disbursements on Committed FRNs	(81.62)
Remaining Uncommitted Requests	(0.93)
Contingency Amount for Pending Appeals and Invoice Deadline Extension Requests	(44.69)
<b>Estimated Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

### *Funding Year 2003 True-Up*

As of September 30, 2008, \$1,941.15 million of Funding Year 2003 support had been authorized for disbursement. USAC's projection of the remaining Funding Year 2003 funds includes estimates of funds needed to pay additional disbursements on committed funding requests and disbursements on requests that have not yet received funding commitments, as well as a contingency reserve to pay pending appeals and to make disbursements on Funding Year 2003 funding requests that may be granted extended invoice deadlines pursuant to Commission orders. Given these requirements, USAC estimates that \$200.00 million of Funding Year 2003 funds are available to carry forward. The estimated remaining Funding Year 2003 balance is determined as follows:

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2003</b>	<b>Amounts in Millions</b>
Amount Authorized and Actually Collected	\$2,250.00
Amount Authorized for Disbursement	(1,941.15)
Amount Carried Forward from Funding Years 1999, 2000 and 2001	420.00
Amount Carried Forward to Funding Year 2007	(150.00)
Amount Carried Forward to Funding Year 2008	(200.00)
Administrative Expenses	(44.19)
Potential Additional Disbursements on Committed FRNs	(60.45)
Remaining Uncommitted Requests	(33.53)
Contingency Amount for Pending Appeals and Invoice Deadline Extension Requests	(40.68)
<b>Estimated Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>

### *Funding Year 2004 True-Up*

As of September 30, 2008, \$1,513.56 million of Funding Year 2004 support had been authorized for disbursement. USAC's projection of the remaining Funding Year 2004 funds includes estimates of funds needed to pay additional disbursements on committed funding requests and disbursements on requests that have not yet received funding commitments, as well as a contingency reserve to pay pending appeals and to make disbursements on Funding

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

Year 2004 funding requests that may be granted extended invoice deadlines pursuant to Commission orders. Given these requirements, USAC estimates that \$250.00 million of Funding Year 2004 funds are available to carry forward. The estimated remaining Funding Year 2004 balance is determined as follows:

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2004</b>	<b>Amounts in Millions</b>
Amount Authorized and Actually Collected	\$2,250.00
Amount Authorized for Disbursement	(1,513.56)
Amount Carried Forward from Funding Year 2001	150.00
Amount Carried Forward to Funding Year 2007	(150.00)
Amount Carried Forward to Funding Year 2008	(250.00)
Administrative Expenses	(55.75)
Potential Additional Disbursements on Committed FRNs	(61.72)
Remaining Uncommitted Requests	(38.83)
Contingency Amount for Pending Appeals and Invoice Deadline Extension Requests	(80.14)
<b>Estimated Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>

### *Funding Year 2005 True-Up*

As of June 30, 2008, \$1,523.13 million of Funding Year 2005 support had been authorized for disbursement. USAC's projection of the remaining Funding Year 2005 funds includes estimates of funds needed to pay additional disbursements on committed funding requests and disbursements on requests that have not yet received funding commitments, as well as a contingency reserve to pay pending appeals and to make disbursements on Funding Year 2005 funding requests that may be granted extended invoice deadlines pursuant to Commission orders. Given these requirements and to preserve the contingency amounts, USAC estimates that \$200.00 million of Funding Year 2005 funds are available to carry forward. The estimated remaining Funding Year 2005 balance is based on the following:

**Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2005</b>	<b>Amounts in Millions</b>
Amount Authorized and Actually Collected	\$2,250.00
Amount Authorized for Disbursement	(1,523.13)
Administrative Expenses	(64.99)
Potential Additional Disbursements on Committed FRNs	(195.19)
Remaining Uncommitted Requests	(180.03)
Contingency Amount for Pending Appeals and Invoice Deadline Extension Requests	(86.66)
<b>Estimated Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>

***Funding Year 2006 True-Up***

As of September 30, 2008, \$1,447.69 million of Funding Year 2006 support had been authorized for disbursement. USAC’s projection of the remaining Funding Year 2006 funds includes estimates of funds needed to pay additional disbursements on committed funding requests and disbursements on requests that have not yet received funding commitments, as well as a contingency reserve to pay pending appeals and to make disbursements on Funding Year 2006 funding requests that may be granted extended invoice deadlines pursuant to Commission orders. Given these requirements and to preserve the contingency amounts, USAC estimates that \$150.00 million of Funding Year 2006 funds are available to carry forward. The estimated remaining Funding Year 2006 balance is based on the following:

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2006</b>	<b>Amounts in Millions</b>
Amount Authorized and Actually Collected	\$2,250.00
Amount Authorized for Disbursement	(1,447.69)
Administrative Expenses	(80.74)
Potential Additional Disbursements on Committed FRNs	(197.33)
Remaining Uncommitted Requests	(246.64)
Contingency Amount for Pending Appeals and Invoice Deadline Extension Requests	(127.60)
<b>Estimated Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>

***Funding Year 2007 True Up***

As of September 30, 2008, \$1,050.00 million of Funding Year 2007 support had been authorized for disbursement. USAC’s projection of remaining Funding Year 2007 funds

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

includes estimates of funds needed to pay additional disbursements on committed funding requests and disbursements on requests that have not yet received funding commitments, as well as a contingency reserve to pay pending appeals and to make disbursements on funding requests that may be granted extended invoice deadlines pursuant to Commission orders.

Given these requirements and to preserve the contingency amount, USAC estimates that no Funding Year 2007 funds are available to carry forward. The estimated remaining Funding Year 2007 balance is based on the following:

<b>FUNDING YEAR 2007</b>	<b>Amounts in Millions</b>
Amount Authorized and Actually Collected	\$2,250.00
Amount Authorized for Disbursement	(1,050.00)
Amount Carried Forward from Funding Years 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004	650.00
Administrative Expenses	(81.24)
Potential Additional Disbursements on Committed FRNs	(1,442.36)
Remaining Uncommitted Requests and Contingency Amount for Pending Appeals and Invoice Deadline Extension Requests	(326.40)
<b>Estimated Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

### ***1Q2009 Demand Estimate and Contribution Requirement***

USAC changed the accounting methodology for the USF to generally accepted accounting principles for federal agencies on October 1, 2004 to comply with the Commission's order of October 3, 2003.<sup>54</sup> Commission staff subsequently determined that Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) for the Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism are to be treated as "obligations" for federal budgetary accounting purposes and subject to the requirements of the Antideficiency Act (ADA).<sup>55</sup> The ADA generally requires

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<sup>54</sup> See *In re Application of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for Federal Agencies and Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards to the Universal Service Fund*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order, FCC 03-232, 18 FCC Red 19911 (2003).

<sup>55</sup> 31 U.S.C. § 1341.

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

that sufficient unobligated resources be available before an obligation can be incurred.

Congress exempted the USF from requirements of the ADA through December 31, 2008.<sup>56</sup>

To reduce the USF cash reserve that has accumulated primarily because the structure of the program necessarily results in significant time lags between the commitments and actual disbursements while at the same time retaining the ability for the USF to satisfy all outstanding commitments based on historic disbursement patterns, the Commission applied a total of \$550 million of the undisbursed USF balance from prior years against Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism demand in 2004. The Commission applied \$200 million of the cash balance in both Second Quarter and Third Quarter 2004, and \$150 million in Fourth Quarter 2004.<sup>57</sup> In addition, on June 11, 2007, the Commission instructed USAC to carry forward \$650 million in unused funds to Funding Year 2007.<sup>58</sup> The funds were carried forward from Funding Years 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 in the amount of \$50 million, \$300 million, \$150 million and \$150 million, respectively. On June 23, 2008, the Commission instructed USAC to carry forward \$600 million in unused funds to Funding Year 2008.<sup>59</sup> The funds are to be carried forward from Funding Years 2002, 2003, and 2004 in the amount of \$150 million, \$200 million and \$250 million, respectively.

Based on the level of applicant demand in Funding Year 2008, which exceeds the annual funding cap of \$2.25 billion, USAC requests authority to collect an amount to

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<sup>56</sup> See H.R. 5419, 108<sup>th</sup> Cong 2d Sess., §302, Universal Service Antideficiency Temporary Suspension Act (effective Dec. 23, 2004) and H.R. 2862, 109<sup>th</sup> Cong 1<sup>st</sup> Sess., 8,633, Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (effective Nov. 22, 2005); H.J. 20 (effective January 1, 2007); Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008, H.R. 2764, Division D—Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2008, Title V—Independent Agencies, at 61.

<sup>57</sup> As stated in its January 31, 2004, Federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms Fund Size Projections for the Second Quarter 2005, and in its subsequent quarterly filings, USAC will continue to consult with the Commission as appropriate concerning the necessity and timing of any recovery of this \$550 million.

<sup>58</sup> See *Schools and Libraries Universal Support Mechanism*, CC Docket No. 02-06, *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Carryover of Unused Funds for Funding Year 2007*, DA 07-2470 (June 1, 2007).

<sup>59</sup> See *Schools and Libraries Universal Support Mechanism*, CC Docket No. 02-06, *Carryover of Unused Federal Universal Service Funds for Funding Year 2008*, DA 08-1470 (rel. June 23, 2008).



## **Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

provide \$562.50 million in funding for 1Q2009, which is one-quarter of the \$2.25 billion annual cap on federal universal service support for schools and libraries. Results for 3Q2008 contribute to an over-funded condition for which this filing proposes to adjust the 1Q2009 requirements. The total adjustment to the 1Q2009 fund requirement based on actual results will decrease the funding needed by \$46.15 million. The explanation for the adjustment is provided below.

<b>Reason for the Prior Period Adjustment</b>	<b>Adjustment in Millions</b>
The 3Q2008 billings were higher than projected revenues reported by contributors in their quarterly revenue projections.	(\$34.87)
Interest income was lower than estimated for 2Q2008.	0.78
Bad debt expense was lower than anticipated.	(12.06)
<b>Total Prior Period Adjustment</b>	<b>(\$46.15)</b>

The fund requirement of \$562.50 million, which includes administrative expenses of \$36.76 million, decreased by a prior-period adjustment of \$46.15 million, reduced by projected interest income of \$21.10 million, results in a projected collection requirement of \$495.25 million for the Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism for 1Q2009.

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### ***CONTRIBUTION BASE***

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USAC collects quarterly interstate and international revenue information from carriers on FCC Form 499-Q four times each year. USAC uses this information to determine aggregate projected revenue collections, which are filed with the Commission on March 2, June 1, September 1, and December 2 each year.<sup>60</sup> Based on these filings, the Commission establishes the contribution factor for the upcoming quarter.

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<sup>60</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 54.709(a)(3). The Form 499-Q includes a box for each of the quarterly filing submissions. Carriers check the appropriate box to indicate the quarter for which revenue information is being reported. See also, 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.706, .708, .711, .713 for contributor reporting requirements.

## Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections

Approximately 6,508 FCC Form 499-Q notifications were distributed to carriers in early October 2008. Interstate telecommunications service providers are required to complete this form, reporting January - March 2009 projected revenue information, and return it to USAC by November 3, 2008.

USAC invoices and receives contributions from more than 2,500 telecommunications companies each month.

USAC continues to assist the Commission in its USF collection enforcement efforts, including providing documentation on a monthly basis to assist the Commission in issuing Notices of Apparent Liability (NALs) and forfeiture orders against delinquent contributors and companies failing to file required forms. USAC transfers to the Commission amounts owed to the USF that are 90 days delinquent after USAC has provided delinquent contributors with the notice required under Commission rules and the Debt Collection Improvement Action (DCIA).<sup>61</sup> Upon receipt of the outstanding debts, the Commission provides delinquent contributors with notice advising them of their USF debt and the possibility of further enforcement activities pursuant to the DCIA and/or by the Commission's Enforcement Bureau. If a delinquent contributor fails to respond to the Commission's request for payment, the delinquent account is typically forwarded to the United States Treasury Department for collection.

USAC implemented the Red Light Rule on November 1, 2004 for contributor debts to the USF.<sup>62</sup> If a contributor is delinquent to the USF, USAC performs administrative offsets to resolve the delinquency by netting any pending service provider disbursements where the Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) shares the same Taxpayer

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<sup>61</sup> 31 U.S.C. §§ 3701 *et seq.*

<sup>62</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.910.

## **Universal Service Administrative Company 1Q2009 Fund Size Projections**

Identification Number (TIN) as the delinquent contributor. If an entity is delinquent on a debt owed to the Commission, USAC places administrative holds on any disbursements for SPINs that share the same TIN until the Commission provides information stating that the debt has been satisfied. USAC continues to work closely with the Commission and stakeholders affected by the Red Light Rule implementation.

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### ***AUTHORIZATION TO FILE WITH THE COMMISSION***

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At their October 27, 2008 meetings, USAC's High Cost & Low Income, Rural Health Care and Schools & Libraries Committees adopted resolutions authorizing USAC staff to file with the Commission the 1Q2009 projected support mechanism funding requirements described herein. At its October 28, 2008 meeting, the USAC Board of Directors adopted a resolution authorizing the inclusion of the projected 1Q2009 administrative expenses in this report to the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

UNIVERSAL SERVICE  
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

      /s/ D. Scott Barash        
D. Scott Barash, Acting Chief Executive Officer  
W.B. Erwin, Vice President of Finance  
David A. Capozzi, Acting General Counsel

October 31, 2008