

New 499 Filer ID Basics

Overview for Service Providers

December 10, 2024

DISCLAIMER

To accommodate all attendees, real-time closed captions will be present during this presentation. We apologize in advance for any transcription errors or distractions. Thank you for your support.

Housekeeping

- The audience will remain on mute.
- Enter questions at any time using the "Questions" box.
- A copy of the presentation is in the "Handouts" section of webinar panel.
- This webinar is being recorded and a copy of the presentation will be on our website under Service Providers and "Webinars".



Meet the Presenter

Al Cipparone

Senior Telecom Industry Analyst | Contributor Operations

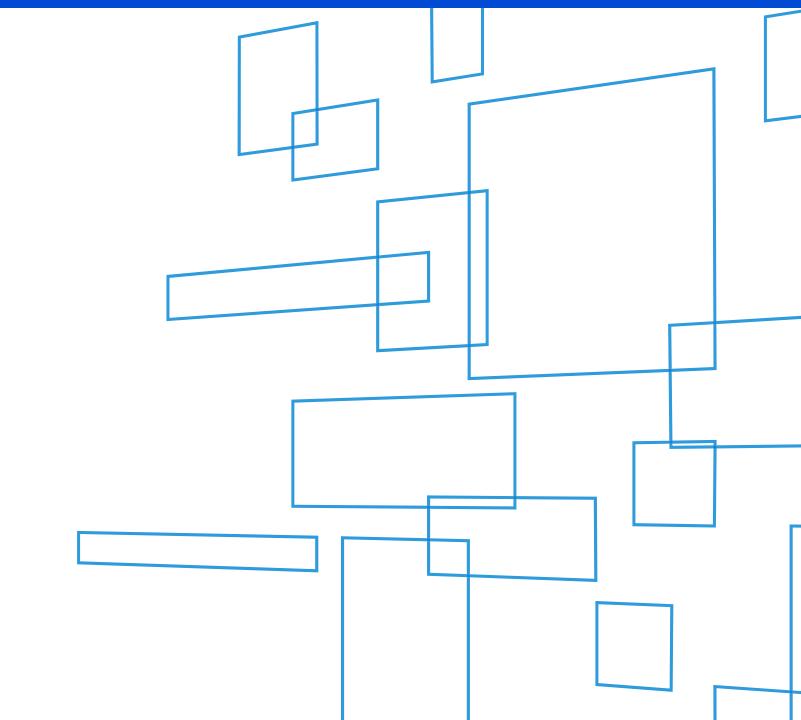
Mr Cipparone is a member of the 499 team that analyzes revenue reported on the FCC Form 499-A.

Al joined USAC in 2022 after many years in the telecommunications industry.

Email: Form499@usac.org

Webinar Overview

In this webinar, designed for service providers new to USAC, we'll cover the basics of the 499 ID and the filing requirements.



Agenda

- 498 ID & 499 ID Purpose
- USAC's Website
- 499 ID Assignment
- Filing Calendar
- Quarterly Form 499-Q
- Annual Form 499-A

498 ID & 499 ID

Understanding the Difference

Purpose of These IDs

499 ID

- Takes its name from the registration formFCC Form 499-A
- Identification used to contribute to the Universal Service Fund



498 ID

- Takes its name from the registration form – FCC Form 498
 - Identification used to receive Universal Service funding

Universal Service Fund

ID Differences

498 ID

Nine-digit number beginning with "143" or "443" (i.e. 143999999, or 443999999)

Who -

Telecommunications Providers

Nine-digit number beginning with "143"

Why - to receive funding from any of the 4 programs USAC administers: *Rural Health Care*, *High Cost*, *Lifeline*, *E-Rate*

499 ID

Six-digit number beginning with an "8" (i.e. 889993)

Who - <u>All</u> telecommunications Providers, including VoIP service providers and resellers

Why - to contribute to the Universal Service Fund

ALWAYS include these numbers on any correspondence with USAC.

Companies that have a 498 ID don't necessarily have to have a 499 ID, and vice versa!

499 ID Assignment

Next Steps

Email Notification of Assignment

Next Steps

Two emails were sent to the Company Officer listed on the registration form.

- 1. Company Officer username and log in instructions for E-File.
- 2. Assignment of the 499 Filer ID and a list of forms you are required to file.

The Company Officer should now add additional users to USAC's E-File system to prepare forms or make payments to USAC.

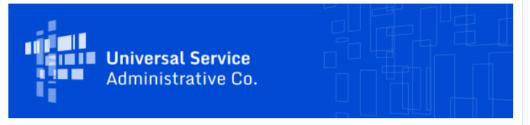
ALL FCC Forms 499 must be submitted online through E-File. Paper copies are not accepted.

Required Form Filings

Included in Assignment Email

The FCC Forms listed are based on the date you entered as the date you started selling telecom.

If you've entered the date the company started, you'll need to correct it!



FCC FORM 499 APPROVAL CONFIRMATION

Thank you for registering with USAC to set up the FCC Form 499 account for LLC. USAC has completed the processing of your registration and the new 499 Filer ID for Please review "What and How to File" in the Contributor section on USAC's website to determine which future FCC Form 499 filings you are required to submit.

Required Previous FCC Form 499 Filings

The information reported on line 228 states that National Conference of this National Conference of this National Complete and submit the following previous FCC Form 499 filings:

499Q Filings

- May 2023 FCC Form 499-Q
- February 2023 FCC Form 499-Q

Please note: FCC Form 499A 2014 and up filings must be submitted electronically through E-file while FCC Form 499A 2013 and prior must be sent via hardcopy mail to USAC.

NOTE: FCC Form 499A 2014 and up filings must be submitted electronically through E-file while FCC Form 499A 2013 and prior must be sent via hardcopy mail to USAC.

If you have any questions, please contact USAC at (888)641-8722 or CustomerSupport@usac.org.

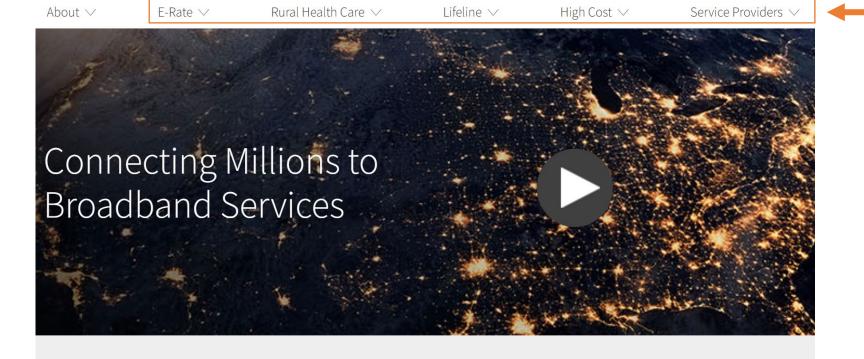
Online Resources

USAC Website

www.usac.org







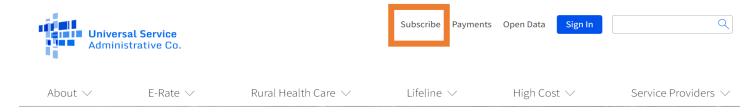
Program Specific webpages

Scroll down the page for links to program pages, as well as statistics on the universal service fund.

The Universal Service Fund helps communities and people across the U.S. stay connected to the information,



Newsletter Subscription



Found on main webpage at www.usac.org

Choose Program	
Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Claims Updates Consumer Group Updates Program Updates	Lifeline Program Newsletter NLAD Bulletin Consumer Advocates
Service Provider Training Invitations System and Technical Updates E-Rate News Brief Tribal Newsletter	Rural Health Care (RHC) Program Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program (Consortia) Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program (Individual HCPs) Telecom Program
Tribal Stakeholders High Cost Detailed HUBB Updates Program Updates	Service Providers FCC Form 499 (Contributors)

USAC's Online Filing System – E-File



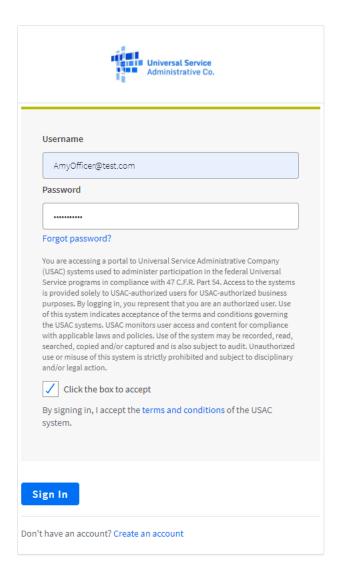
Subscribe Payments Open Data Sign In

'Sign In' page will prompt you for a username and password to log in to the E-File system.

USAC maintains security using a multi-factor authentication system, sending a 6-digit code to the applicable email address (Username) to enter prior to logging in to the system.

It's important not to share usernames.

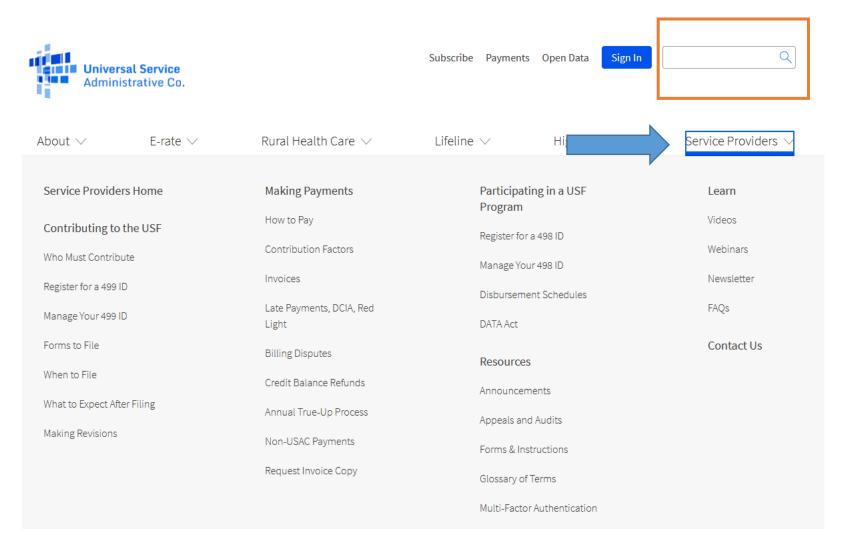
That's a violation of our terms and conditions.



Service Provider Specific Menu

Click on the words 'Service Providers' and you'll see a drop-down menu with topics specific to Service Providers, the Forms 499 and 498.

Use the search box in the upper right-hand corner if navigating the menu is confusing.



Webinar Training Announcements

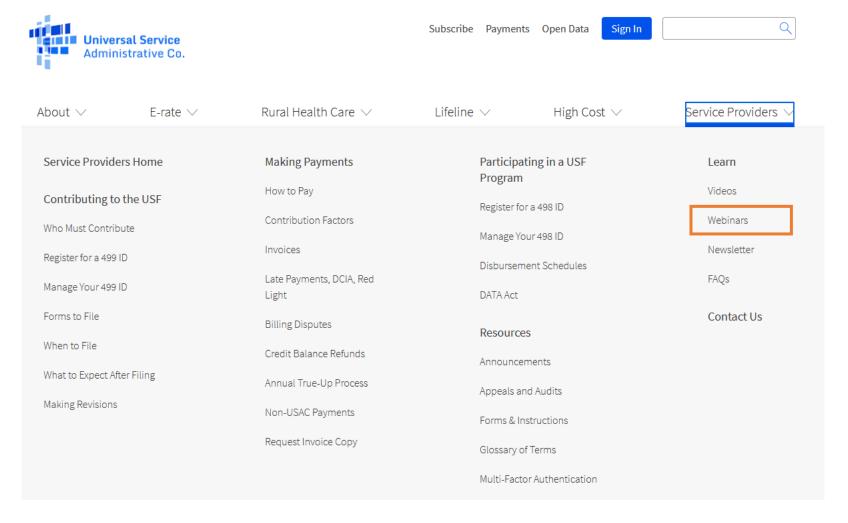
Annual Form Training

February

Monthly Trainings

- New 499 ID
- Office Hours open topic and discussion

Previous webinar recordings also stored here.



Additional Learning Resources

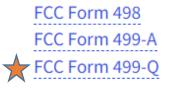
The USAC website offers several options to learn via our online video library as well.

Click on the words 'Service Providers' on the main webpage.

Videos

These videos are designed to help you understand and manage the form filing process, FCC requirements, and other elements to offer service provider support.





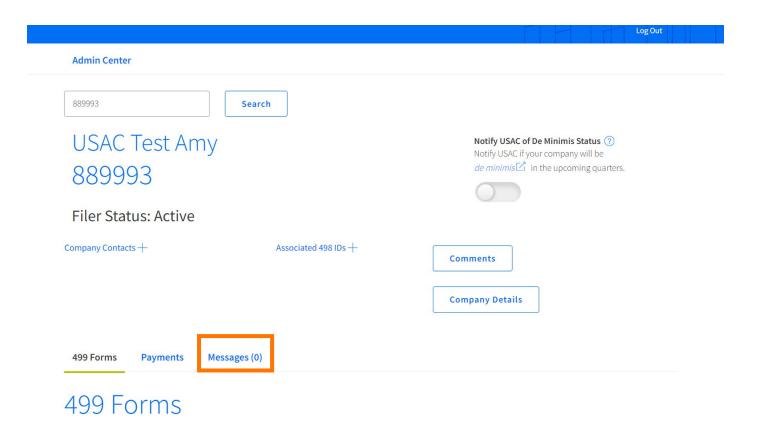
Contacting USAC

Message System within E-File

Customer Specific Contact

The best way to contact your assigned 499 analyst is via E-File Messages.

Located within the E-File portal, a secure message can be sent to ask specific questions about your filer ID, Forms 499, payments, and any other inquiry.

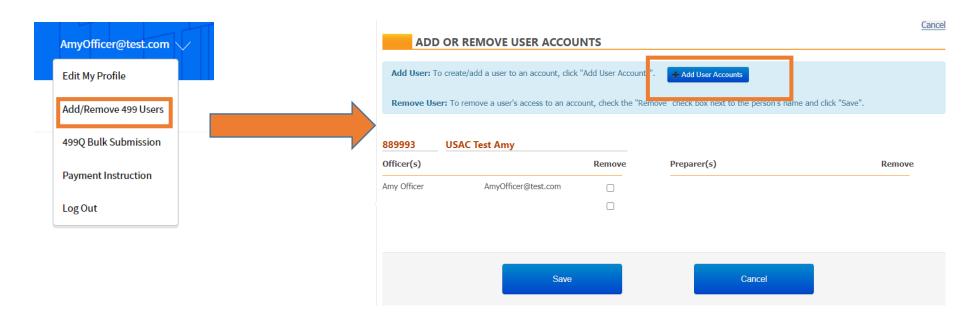


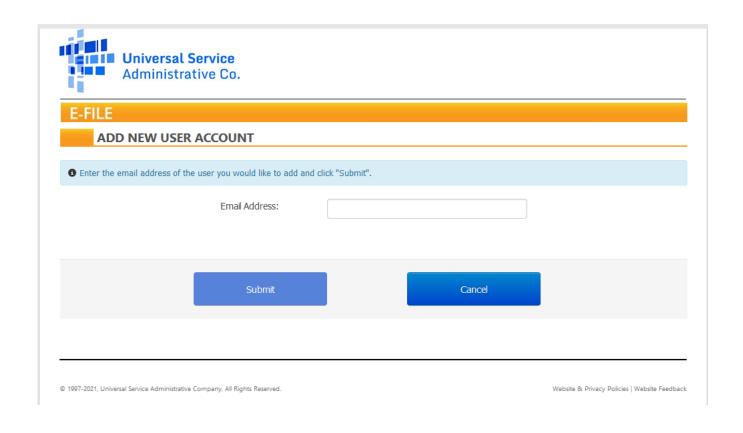
Adding E-File Users

Only Company Officers can grant E-File access to additional users.

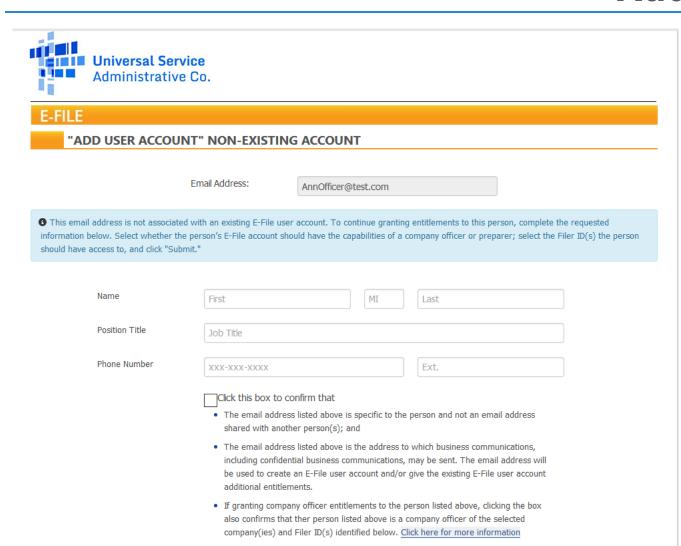
Click the down arrow next to your user ID in the top right-hand corner of the screen, then select the option, 'Add/Remove 499 Users'.

At the next screen, click the blue button '+Add User Accounts'.





- •The email address entered acts as the new user's E-File username.
- •The email address entered should be specific to the person and not an email address shared with another person(s) or a generic email address (e.g. Billing @gmail.com).
- •The email address listed will be the address to which business communications, including confidential business communications, may be sent.



- Enter the contact information of the user you are adding.
- Place a check mark in the box confirming that the username you are adding meets the USAC terms and conditions.
- Scroll down to assign a role to the new user.



- Determine the level of access you will grant to the new user.
 - Company officers are the only persons who can certify an FCC Form 499.
 - Company officers can also add/remove users who have authority to access the account.
- Select which Filer IDs the new user will have access to by highlighting the Filer ID and clicking the right arrow button to move it to the 'Selected Filer IDs' column.
- Complete the set up by clicking the 'Submit' button.

2024 Filing Calendar

When to File the FCC Forms 499

Types of FCC Form 499

FCC Form 499-A

- Required for EVERYONE
- 2. The FCC Form 499-A is the annual form used to report the company's actual revenue billed during the prior calendar year.
- 3. The FCC Form 499-A is due annually on April 1.
- 4. USAC will notify you of due date.

FCC Form 499-Q

- 1. Required for all non-de minimis filers
- 2. The <u>FCC Form 499-Q</u> is used to *project* or *forecast* the company's revenue for the <u>next</u> calendar quarter.
- 3. The FCC Form 499-Q due dates:
 - February 1
 - May 1
 - August 1
 - November 1
- 4. USAC will <u>not</u> notify you of due dates.

2024 Filing Deadlines

Due Date	Revenue Reported	Revision Deadline	Contributor Billing
FCC Form 499-Q February 1, 2024	2Q projected 2024 4Q revenue 2023	March 18, 2024	April – June 2024
FCC Form 499-A April 1, 2024	Prior year: 2023 January – December	March 31, 2025	July 2024
FCC Form 499-Q May 1, 2024	3Q projected 2024 1Q revenue 2024	June 17, 2024	July – September 2024
FCC Form 499-Q August 1, 2024	4Q projected 2024 2Q revenue 2024	September 16, 2024	October – December 2024
FCC Form 499-Q November 1, 2024	1Q projected 2025 3Q revenue 2024	December 16, 2024	January – March 2025

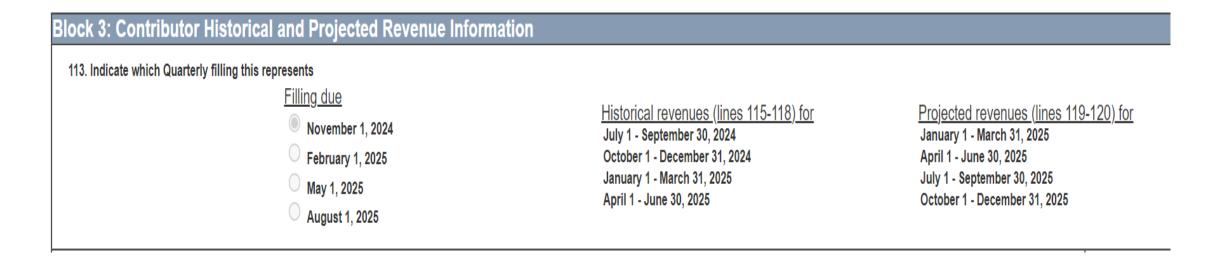
^{*} When a form due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the form is due the following business day.

Quarterly Filing Periods

Filing Dates – from the FCC Form 499-Q

One form is used to file all four of the quarterly filings. The relevant time periods are included on the form showing the filer exactly what time periods the form is reporting.

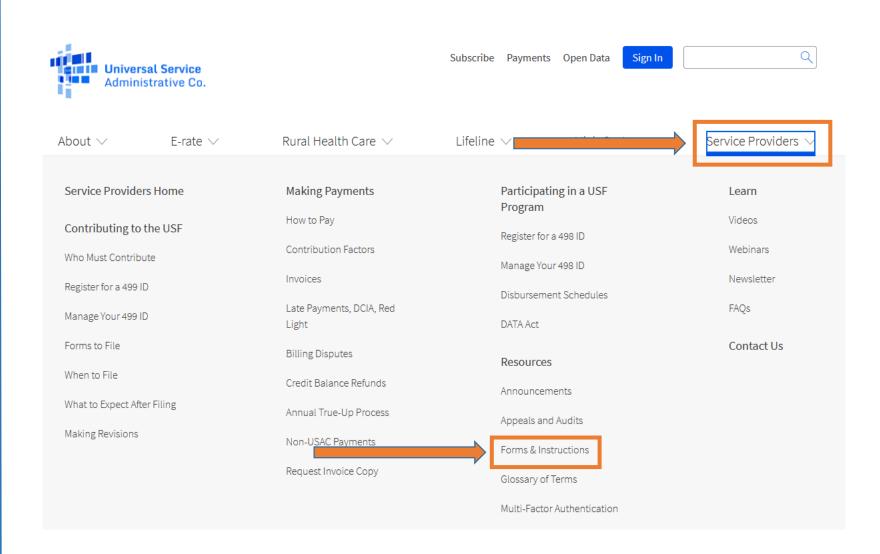
Below is a screen shot from E-File's data entry for the FCC Form 499-Q.



³⁰

Find the FCC Forms

Select "Forms & Instructions" from the drop-down mega menu.



Form 499 & Instructions

All 3 forms relevant to Service Providers can be found on this page.

The paper copy of the instructions as well as the form itself are listed in this section. Actual forms are the last pages of the instructions document.

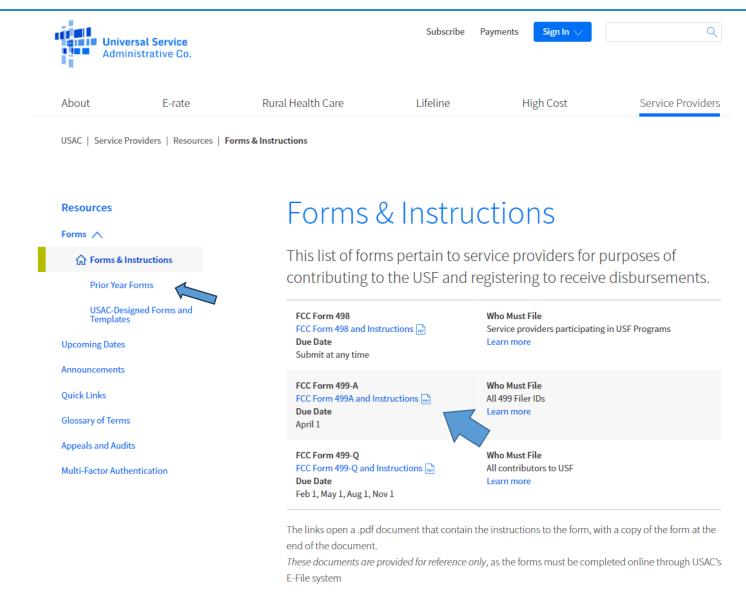
Click on the name to open up a .pdf document.

FCC Form 499-Q

• filed 4 times a year.

FCC Form 499-A

• filed once a year



Gross Billed Revenues - Definition

Per the 499-A Instructions, gross billed revenues include:

- Revenues from all sources, including non-regulated telecommunications offerings, information services, and other non-telecommunications services.
 - Account set-up.
 - Connection.
 - Service restoration.
 - Termination.
- Revenues derived from the activation and provision of interstate, international, and intrastate telecommunications and non-telecommunications services.

Gross billed revenues do NOT include:

- Deposits.
- Taxes.

Please see the 499-A Instructions for the complete definition. Note that revenues are <u>not</u> profits.

Questions?

Quarterly Filing

Who is Required to File the 499-Q

FCC Form 499-Q Purpose

What is it?

- The FCC Form 499-Q (quarterly) is used to determine the amount of money a company must contribute to the universal service fund for a quarter.
 - It is similar in concept to the IRS quarterly estimated tax forms a business must file.
- While the filer reports both historical and projected revenues on the form, only
 the projected revenues are used to determine the contribution amount billed
 in the upcoming quarter.

Define "de minimis"

Definition of *de minimis*

A filer qualifies for *de minimis* status for a given calendar year when the revenue reported on its corresponding FCC Form 499-A is such that the calculated annual contribution to the federal Universal Service Fund is less than \$10,000.

Annual Revenue Threshold

For calendar year 2024, filers that bill less than \$41,841 of combined end user interstate and international telecommunication revenues will be considered *de minimis* for 2024. For calendar year 2025, the de minimis threshold is \$39,062 of combined end user interstate and international telecommunication revenues.

If the company has determined that it will be required to be a direct contributor to the Federal Universal Service Fund, that company must file an FCC Form 499-Q, the quarterly filing.

Who Must File

- Every non de minimis telecommunications company must file the FCC Form 499-Q. This means
 your company is a direct contributor to the FUSF and is billed monthly by USAC. If the company
 does not file, a late filing fee will be applied.
- 2. De minimis filers are not required to file the FCC Form 499-Q, but must notify USAC of their status by selecting the de minimis button on their main screen.



de minimis Notification

- If you notified USAC in November of your *de minimis* status by clicking the button, you will be sent an email instructing your company that it is not required to file quarterly forms covering the calendar year 2025. (February, May, August).
- If the company has determined that their *de minimis* status has changed, you should 'unclick' the *de minimis* button and file the November FCC Form 499-Q.
- Regardless of a company's *de minimis* status, there will always be an entry in E-File listing the FCC Form 499-Q.

Filing Online

Accessing the Forms Through E-File

Online Filing – Before You Start

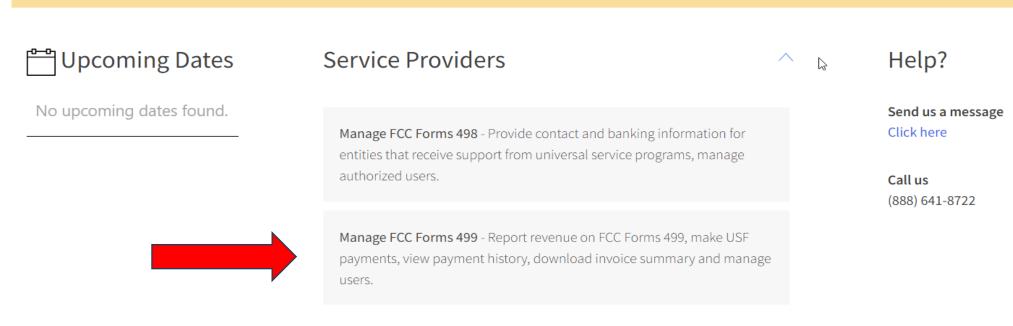
- Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, and Microsoft Edge internet browsers are recommended.
 - Apple Safari and mobile access are not recommended.
- Make sure your internet browser's 'pop up blocker' is OFF.
 - The system opens a new window to display the data entry screen for the FCC Form 499-Q.
 - If you have clicked 'Start Form' and you don't see a new, smaller window you most likely have the pop-ups blocked.
- Please ensure these email addresses from USAC don't go to your SPAM folder!
 - Important USAC communication comes from the following emails:
 - √ 'form499@usac.org'
 - √ 'CustomerSupport@usac.org'
 - √ 'form499@universalservice.org'
- Not sure if you are de minimis or not? FILE the form anyway!
 - We would rather have you report your revenues than us having to estimate on your behalf.

Online Filing the FCC Forms 499

Once logged in to E-File, the service provider portal will appear. Only systems for which you have authorization to access will appear. In this example, the user can only access the 498 ID and the 499 Filer ID. Select the paragraph 'Manage FCC Forms 499'.

Dashboard

In accordance with the Supply Chain orders, new certifications have been added to the following forms: RHC - FCC Form 463 and the Telecom invoice, E-rate - FCC Form 473, and High Cost & Lifeline - FCC Form 481. Service providers are required to submit these annual certifications. For additional information, visit the USAC Supply Chain page.

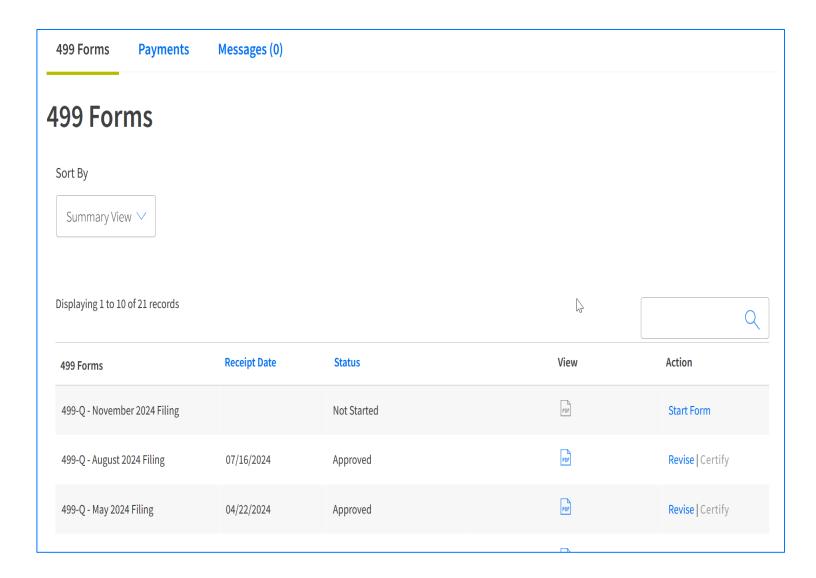


Online Filing the FCC Forms 499

Using the E-File navigation system, navigate to the Filer ID that you wish to work on, if you have more than one 499 Filer ID.

Scroll to the bottom of the screen and summary view of the FCC Form 499s.

The forms are listed in chronological order. In the 'Action' column, your choices for form entry are in blue.

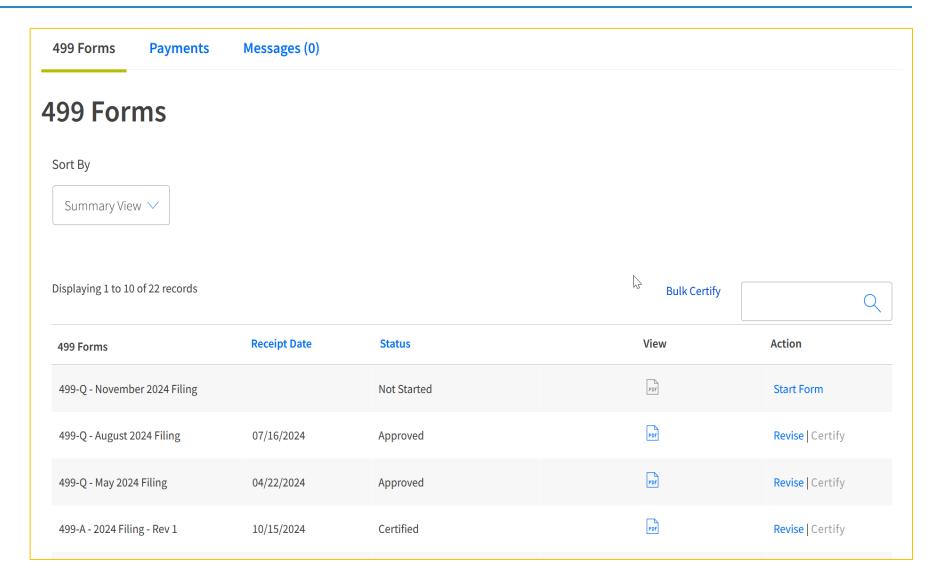


Online FCC Form Status

There are a number of different statuses that a form can be assigned.

Not Started, Certified, Approved are the most common.

A complete list of the different statuses can be found <u>here</u>.



Monthly Billing Statements

How USAC Uses the Revenues on the 499-Q

E-File Enhancement – Online Billing Statements Now Available

In October 2024, USAC was excited to announce an E-File system update that makes more information available to USF contributors.

New billing statements are now available that offer more flexibility and transparency in the billing process.

Highlights of the update include:

- Billing statements show up-to-date transaction activity, balances, and statuses for your company's receivables.
- Service providers can apply payments to specific statements if needed.
- USAC has discontinued sending monthly paper invoices. Information previously found in monthly invoices (such as a company's individual USF contribution calculations) is now available in E-File.

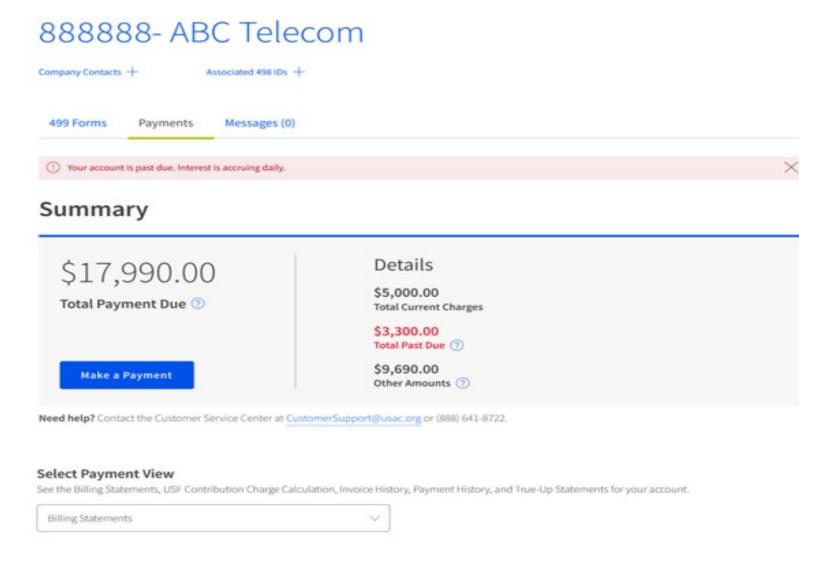
Log in to E-File and go to the Payments tab to access your billing statements.

Learn more about the updates by visiting the "Making Payments" pages or viewing the "E-File Payments Changes" video on the USAC website.

Accessing Billing Statements

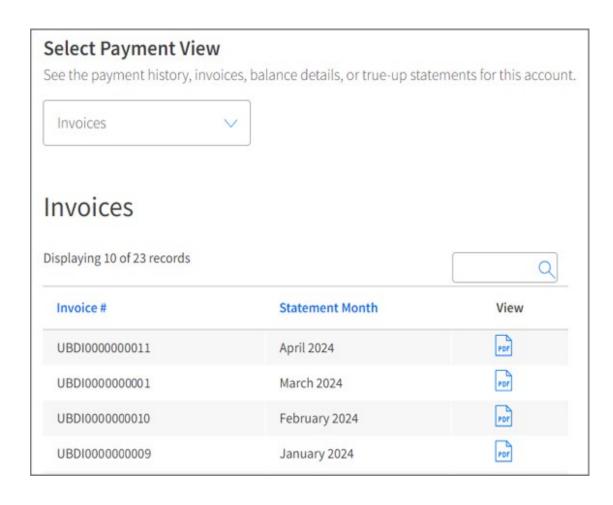
On or around the 15th of the month, an online billing statement will be made available to authorized users in E-File.

To access the Billing Statements page from the 'Payments' section, scroll down to 'Select Payment View', click in the box, and select 'Billing Statements'.

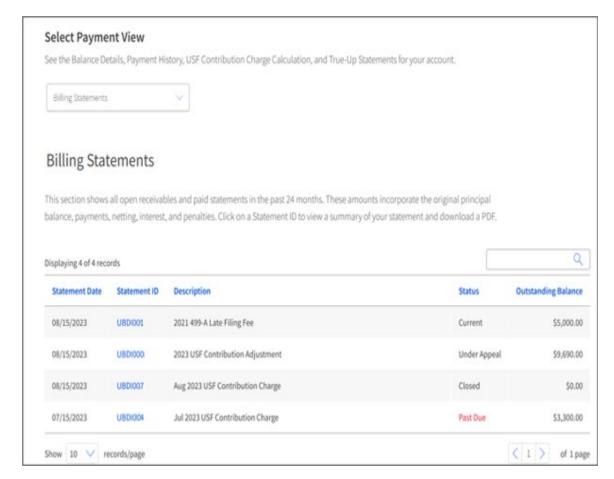


USAC Billing Statements

Prior (Invoices):



New! (Billing Statements):

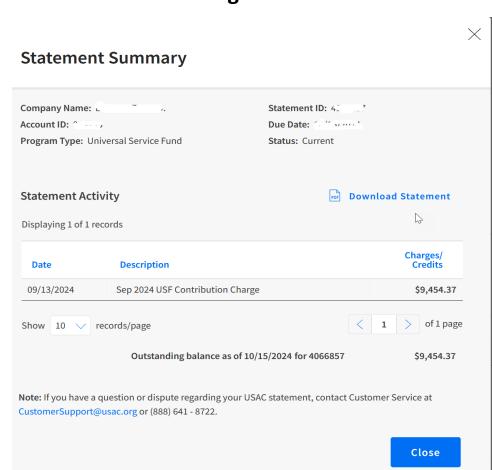


USAC Billing Statements

November 2024 FCC Form 499-Q

114. Check if using safe harbor to allocate intersate/intrastate revenues for each of the following (as applicable):	Cellular and Broadband	Paging Analog SMR	Interconnected VoIP
Historical billed revenues with no allowance or deductions for uncollectables. See instructions.	Total Revenues in \$ (a)	Interstate Revenues in \$ (b)	International Revenues in \$ (c)
115. Telecommunications provided to other universal service contributors for resale as telecommunications or as interconnected VoIP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
116. End-user telecommunications revenues including any pass-through charges for universal service contributions, but excluding international-to-international revenues	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
117. All other goods and services	\$0.00	Column (b) and (c) not requested for Lines 117 and 118	
118. Gross-billed revenues from all sources [sum of above]	\$0.00		
119. Projected gross-billed end-user interstate and international telecommunications revenues including any pass-through charges for universal service contributions, but excluding international-to-international revenues		\$0.00	\$0.00
120. Projected collected end-user interstate and international telecommunications revenues including any pass-through charges for universal service contributions, but excluding international-to-international revenues		\$0.00	\$0.00

The revenue projections entered on <u>Line 120</u> of the 499-Q will be used for determining your contribution amounts billed on the <u>1st quarter 2025 billing</u> <u>statements</u>.



Questions?

Annual Filing FCC Form 499-A

FCC Form 499-A Purpose

What is it?

A company reports their actual historical revenues on the FCC Form 499-A.

The 2024 FCC Form 499-A reports actual revenues from calendar year 2023.

USAC takes the revenue on the 2024 FCC Form 499-A and compares to the projected revenue from the quarterly FCC Forms 499-Q that were filed in 2023.

Estimated Revenues - Total for Year

499-Q November 2022 Filing (1Q 2023)

499-Q February 2023 Filing (2Q 2023)

499-Q May 2023 Filing (3Q 2023)

499-Q August 2023 Filing (4Q 2023)



Actual Revenues

2024 FCC Form 499-A
 January – December 2023

Annual True-Up

Compare 499-Q revenue to the 499-A revenue

If the company's projected revenues for calendar year 2023, reported on the FCC Form 499-Qs, are **too high**, USAC will calculate your credit.

The company 'contributed' too much over the year.

If the company's projected revenues are **too low**, USAC will calculate a "true-up charge" to make up for the contribution deficit.

The company didn't contribute enough over the year.

These charges/credits will appear on the company's July billing statement.

Certify and Submit

Complete the FCC Form 499

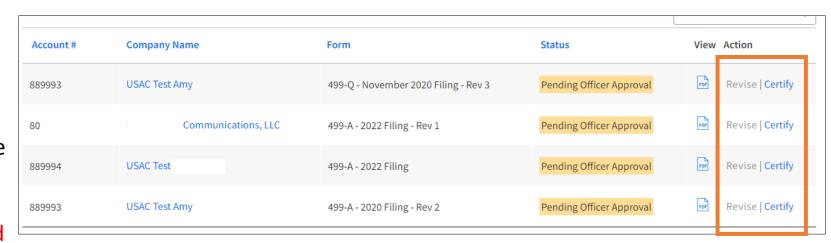
Certify & Submit

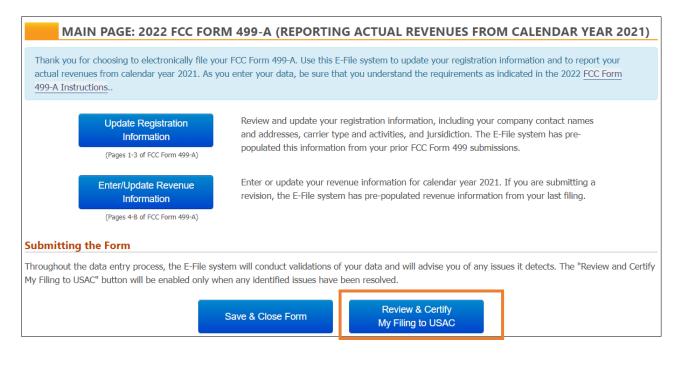
Review, Certify & Submit

Once the data entry is complete on the FCC Form 499-A, USAC does not consider it submitted until a Company Officer electronically signs (certify) and submits the form.

E-File Preparers cannot submit the FCC Form 499-A, only a Company Officer can.

E-File gives the Company Officer two methods for certifying forms.





Third Party Funds

Administrators Receiving 499-A Information

Third Party Funds

Authorized Access to Annual Form Data

- The administrators of each of the funds below use the revenue reported on the FCC Form 499-A to calculate and assess any necessary contributions.
- These administrators will notify companies of their required contributions to each of these funds. You will be invoiced separately for each of these funds.
- On a monthly basis, USAC provides the administrators with data from the most recent FCC Form 499-A filed.
- This data includes contact information, receipt date information, and reported revenues.
- For more information, refer to the FCC Form 499-A instructions on who is required to contribute to these funds and what revenue line number is provided.

Third Party Funds

- 1. **Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS)** enables an individual who is deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or who has a speech disability to communicate by telephone or other device through the telephone system at no additional cost. Every common carrier interstate telecommunications services and every VoIP provider (including interconnected and non-interconnected) must contribute to the TRS Fund. See 47 C.F.R. Sections 64.601(b), 64.604.
- 2. Local Number Portability (LNP) enables end users to keep their telephone number when switching from one telecommunications service provider to another. The shared costs of long-term number portability attributable to a regional database shall be recovered from all telecommunications carriers and interconnected VoIP providers servicing a given region. See 47 C.F.R. Section 52.32.
- 3. North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANP) is a numbering scheme for the public switched telecommunications networks (PSTN) within the United States, Canada, and participating Caribbean countries. All telecommunications carriers and interconnected VoIP providers in the United States shall contribute to meet the costs of establishing numbering administration. See 47 C.F.R. Section 52.17.
- 4. In addition, the FCC utilizes the revenue data contained in the FCC Form 499-A to bill carriers **Interstate Telecommunications Service Provider (ITSP)** regulatory fees. The ITSP is collected to cover the regulatory costs associated with the FCC's enforcement, policy and rulemaking, user information, and international activities. See 47 U.S.C. Section 159(a).

Third Party Fund Administrators

List of Companies and Contact Information

<u>Fund</u>	Administrator	Customer Service Number
TRS	RolkaLoube – Public Utility and Telecommunications Consulting	(717) 585-6605
LNPA	Telcordia Technologies dba iconectiv	(844) 560-8050
NANPA	North American Numbering Plan (NANP)	(613) 760-4512
ITSP	Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	(877) 480-3201, Option 6

Form Specific Training

Resources On-Line

Training Video for Filing the FCC Form 499-Q

You can find an FCC Form 499-Q training module that explains the form and walks a user through filing the FCC Form 499-Q. It is self-paced and includes a menu so you can skip to specific sections.

This video is found on our 'Videos' page or directly by clicking this <u>link</u>.



Webinars for Filing the FCC Form 499-A

In-depth training for the annual form happens every February. The webinars are recorded and found on the Webinars <u>webpage</u>.

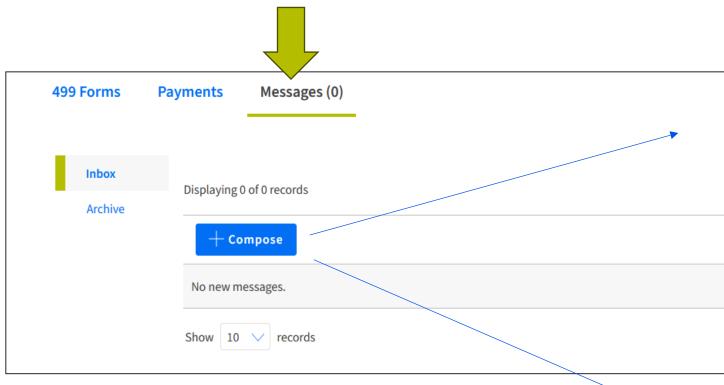
The following are recommended for reviewing how to complete an FCC Form 499-A.

2024 FCC Form 499-A: VoIP Providers and Resellers 2024-499A-Series-VoIP-Providers	February 14, 2024 55:37 minutes	Watch
2024 FCC Form 499-A: Getting Started 2024-499A-Series-Getting-Started	February 12, 2024 53:12 minutes	Watch
Office Hours: What's New on the 2024 FCC Form 499-A Feb24 Contributor Office Hours	February 07, 2024 54:17 minutes	Watch

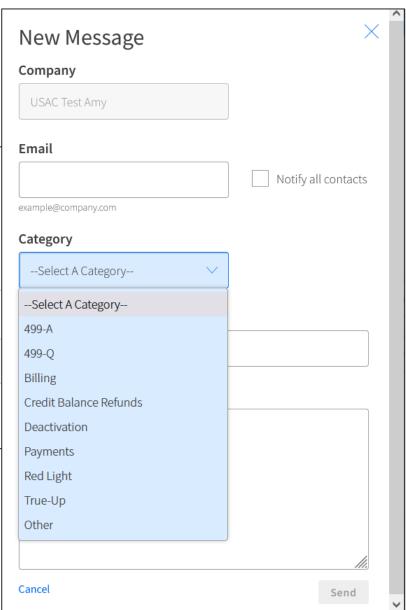
Questions?

How to Contact USAC

E-File Message Portal



Send a message to the Service Provider team directly through the Message Portal in E-File.



Contributors/Service Providers Customer Service Center (CSC)



Call us at (888) 641-8722

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET



Email: CustomerSupport@usac.org

- Include in your email
 - 498 ID/Service Provider ID Number (SPIN)
 - 499 Filer ID

