

Revised Missouri Commission Rules Related to State and Federal USF

Missouri Commission rule revisions relating to ETCs and universal service funding will go into effect April 30, 2014. The rulemaking in Case No. TX-2013-0324 ultimately consolidated all ETC and universal service funding requirements into one chapter of the Missouri PSC's rules. Two sections are most relevant for existing ETCs: *4 CSR 240-31.120* (Lifeline Program and Disabled Program requirements) and *4 CSR 240-31.130* (ETC requirements).

Following is a summary of some of the more significant requirements. This summary is not meant to be all-inclusive of the Missouri USF rules, revisions or subsections discussed below.

- ***ETCs have flexibility in the Lifeline application form (4 CSR 240-31.120(5)).*** The Missouri USF Board will continue to provide sample forms on the websites of the Missouri Commission and the MoUSF Administrator; however, an ETC has the flexibility to devise its own Lifeline application form. Requirements associated with a company-specific Lifeline application form are contained in this subsection.
- ***Supplemental Security Income removed as eligibility criteria for the Disabled program (4 CSR 240-31.120(1)(C)1).*** Supplemental Security Income is no longer a Disabled program eligibility criterion. (SSI remains as eligibility criteria for Lifeline.)
- ***Lifeline-only ETCs (and non-ETCs reselling Lifeline service) will be subject to an annual filing requirement (4 CSR 240-31.130(3)(A)).*** The initial annual filing is due July 1, 2014 and must include:
 - A copy of the annual report required by 47 CFR 54.422;
 - A statement whether the company offers access to certain services;
 - A certification of compliance with seven statements;
 - If the ETC provides Lifeline wholesale service then identify the reseller.
 - Website address containing information about the company's Lifeline service;
 - A copy of the Lifeline and/or Disabled application form used in Missouri.
- ***Annual filing requirements for ETCs receiving high-cost support have changed (4 CSR 240-31.130(3)).*** This year's annual filing is due July 1, 2014 and must include:
 - All of the previously described annual filing requirements for Lifeline-only ETCs;
 - A copy of the annual report required by 47 CFR 54.202(a)(2);
 - A certification of compliance with three additional statements;
 - An explanation of how the company monitors, if at all, quality of service; and
 - Applicable study area codes.
- ***Annual verification of Lifeline subscriber eligibility (4 CSR 240-31.120(C) and (D))***
 - Missouri-specific requirement: Subscriber must submit proof of eligibility at least once every two years unless an ETC has an automated means of verifying subscriber eligibility or alternatively a company's process is handled by USAC. *(Under Staff's interpretation this requirement must be met no later than the 2015 verification cycle whereby Form 555 results are submitted by January 31, 2016.)*

- Limited verification requirement for any disabled program participant not listed as voice subscriber.

- ***New notification requirements apply to ETCs (4 CSR 240-31.130(2)(J) and (K))***
 - An ETC is required to notify the Missouri PSC Staff Telecommunications Manager if the ETC is involved in any state or federal proceeding involving fraud or non-compliance.
 - An ETC is required to forward to the Missouri PSC Staff Telecommunications Manager any audit results conducted by USAC or any audits contemplated by 47 CFR 54.420 by an independent auditor.