

New Mexico State Rural Universal Service Fund
2023 Remittance Worksheet Instructions
Effective January 1, 2023

I. Filing Requirements and General Instructions

A. Introduction

The New Mexico State Rural Universal Service Fund (NMSRUSF) is a multi-million dollar fund created pursuant to the provisions of the Rural Telecommunications Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 63-9H-1, et seq. (2005). The Fund must operate in a manner that is equitable and nondiscriminatory in its collection and distribution of funds, and must provide a specific, predictable and sufficient support mechanism that reduces intrastate switched access charges to interstate switched access charge levels in a revenue-neutral manner and ensures universal service in the State (NMSA 1978, § 63-9H-6.C.).

By New Mexico state statute and regulation, local exchange carriers (LECs), including Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs), are to begin the reduction of intrastate access charges to interstate levels commencing April 1, 2006, and may increase local residential and business exchange rates to benchmark levels in order to help offset revenues lost as a result of the required access charge reductions. In addition, LECs that are eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) may be reimbursed for the remainder of their access charge revenue loss by receiving payments from the Fund.

On November 30, 2022, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) issued an order under Case No. 22-00239-UT establishing the communication connection surcharge for providers of wire-line and wireless telecommunications services in New Mexico at **\$0.97 per non-exempt communication connection, effective January 1, 2023**. For reporting purposes, the \$0.97 surcharge will apply to the January 2023 – December 2023 data periods.

B. Who Must File

Every telecommunications carrier, telecommunications public utility and wireless telecommunications service provider that provides intrastate retail public telecommunications services or comparable services in the state of New Mexico must contribute to the NMSRUSF. Although carriers are authorized to collect assessments from customers via a clearly marked pass-through surcharge on customer bills, they are not required to do so. Companies cannot assess customers a rate higher than that approved by the NM PRC for the current year. If your company has recently started operations in New Mexico, you are required to complete and submit Attachment B, NMSRUSF Registration form. The Commission notes that, for **toll providers and long distance providers**, the elimination of revenue reporting implemented in its December 16, 2020 Order in Case No. 20-00153-UT results in the elimination of any reporting to the Fund Administrator.

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I. Filing Requirements and General Instructions (cont'd)

C. When to File – (See Attachment A)

All reporting and payment due dates are identified on the 2023 NMSRUSF Reporting & Payment Schedule in Attachment A.

- **Monthly** reporters: Report the number of non-exempt communication connections and pay the assessments for each month by the 15th of the following month. (e.g. the January 2023 non-exempt communications connections and related assessments must be received (and payment processed) no later than February 15, 2023).
- **Quarterly** reporters: Report the **actual** number of non-exempt communication connections and pay the assessments for the applicable period by the 15th of the month following the end of each quarter. For example, the number of non-exempt communication connections for January 1, 2023 – March 30, 2023 (1st Quarter) must be received (and payment processed) no later than April 15, 2023.

All filings must be received by the NMSRUSF Administrator by the due date. All payments must be received and posted by the bank by the due date. Postmark does not constitute receipt.

<u>Worksheet Submission:</u> Carriers are required to file online at https://usflogon.vantagepnt.com/	NMUSF@vantagepnt.com NMSRUSF Administration Vantage Point Solutions
<u>Payment Submission:</u>	Remit payments directly to Bank of Albuquerque See Attachment C for Payment Submission Instructions

D. Compliance

Carriers that do not comply with state rules by filing reports and remitting payments according to the schedule established by the Administrator will be identified and reported to the NM PRC.

If revised monthly/quarterly results indicate that a carrier has overpaid into the Fund and the over-payments cannot be adjusted on the carrier's next monthly remittance due to the extent of the overpayment, the Administrator will report such instances to the Commission in order to determine whether consumers may have been over-charged the NMSRUSF flow-through fee.

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II. Line-by-Line Instructions for Completion of the NMUSF Worksheet

Section 1 - Carrier Identification Information

Company Code

The company code starts with “NM” followed by six digits. The company code is assigned by the NMSRUSF Administrator upon registration. Companies owning separate legal entities and separate lines of business (e.g. a local exchange entity and a wireless entity), must file a separate worksheet for each entity. Once the NMSRUSF Administrator has assigned a unique company code to your company, all future correspondence must reference this code.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All correspondence from your company, including remittance checks, Electronic Fund Transfers, Emails, etc. **MUST** reference your unique Company Code. This is especially important with regard to remittances as payments are applied to carrier accounts based on the Company Code.

Carrier Identification:

Upon selecting the Company Name, company information, including primary communications business type and company code will be displayed.

Submission Date

The Submission Date is the date the worksheet is being filed online and is automatically populated.

Data Period

Select the Data Period. The Data Period indicates the Year and Month or Quarter that corresponds to the data being reported. Please see Attachment A for “NMSRUSF Reporting and Payment Schedule”.

Submission Type - Original or Revision

The system will automatically indicate if this is the initial (Original) submission for a data period. A Revision will be indicated when an Original worksheet already exists for the selected filing period.

Filing Revisions:

Revisions may be used for correction or to “true-up” the number of non-exempt communication connections previously reported in error. Report actual number of revised non-exempt communication connections, not the difference between the original and the revision.

Section 2 – Remittance Calculation

Line 4 – Number of Non-Exempt Communication Connections

A “Communication Connection”, as defined in 17.11.10.7.1 NMAC, means a voice-enabled telephone access line, wireless voice connection, unique voice over internet protocol service connection, or other uniquely identifiable functional equivalent as determined by the Commission.

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II. Line-by-Line Instructions for Completion of the NMUSF Worksheet (cont'd)

Section 2 – Remittance Calculation (cont'd)

Line 5 - 2023 Communication Connection Surcharge (\$0.97 for January 2023 through December 2023)

Line 6 – Remittance (Line 4 multiplied by Line 5)

If carrier does not receive NMSRUSF support, or a LITAP disbursement, this is the amount due to the NMSRUSF. Skip down to CHANGE IN COMPANY STATUS AND CERTIFICATION.

Section 3 – LITAP CALCULATION

Per Case No. 05-00313-UT, Final Order and Final Rule, and Attachment “A” of same, as adopted on September 30, 2010, enter the following information regarding the carrier’s LITAP in the state of New Mexico. PLEASE NOTE: BACKUP IS REQUIRED BEFORE PAYMENT IS ISSUED. PLEASE PROVIDE FCC FORM(S) 497, RECEIPTS, COST INCURRED INVOICES, VOUCHERS, AND OTHER INFORMATION THAT SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEMS.

Line 7 - Enter the single month/year for which qualified Lifeline customers are reported

This month must match the reported month on the Form(s) 497 or other backup. It may be different from the Revenue Data Month.

a) Enter each reported SAC#

For this reported month, enter each six-digit Study Area Code (SAC) # for which you are reporting customers. Please separate each SAC# with commas. Backup must include the Form 497 or other documentation for each SAC#.

b) Enter the sum of all Tier 3 customers

For this reported month, sum all **Tier 3** customers, as reported on each Form 497 or other documentation, and enter here.

Line 8 - Rate per Customer

Enter the rate for LITAP support claimed per customer. The maximum amount of support per customer is \$3.50.

Line 9 - Total adjusted Lifeline support or true-ups and adjustments for this reported month

Enter the total adjusted Lifeline support or true-ups and adjustments made this reported month. Any adjustments that are partial credits must be listed on this line.

Line 10- Lifeline Discount (Line 7b X Line 8) + (Line 9)

Enter the total dollar amount of LITAP support claimed.

Line 11 - Interest Accrual amounts on Lifeline funds

Enter the dollar amount of deferred interest (if applicable).

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II. Line-by-Line Instructions for Completion of the NMUSF Worksheet (cont'd)

Section 3 – LITAP CALCULATION (cont'd)

Line 12 - The amount of administrative, advertising, voucher, and other Lifeline expenses

Enter the dollar amount of administrative, voucher, and other Lifeline expenses borne by the ETC over and above what was expended in connection with Federal Universal Service duties. Supporting documentation must be provided for all expenses. Include the Federal base expenditures being exceeded as part of the documentation.

Line 13 - Total (Line 10 + Line 11 + Line 12)

Enter the total LITAP disbursement credits claimed for the reported month.

Line 14 - The foregone revenue resulting from the discounts provided to Lifeline customers after reimbursements. After subtracting the amount entered on Line 9, enter the dollar amount for the discounts provided to Lifeline customers. This is a reporting requirement but is not included in the total LITAP disbursement credits. **(Do NOT add item to Line 12.)**

Section 4 – Net Remittance Calculation

Line 15 - (Non-LITAP) NMUSF Support Payable to Eligible Telecommunications Carriers

The amount of monthly (non-LITAP) NMSRUSF Support due to the carrier as authorized by the NM PRC will automatically be displayed. Support is payable the first day of the second month following the data month reported to the NMSRUSF Administrator. For example, April's support will be received by the carrier on or before June 1st as long as the carrier's remittance worksheet is received by the mid May due date.

Line 16 - NET NMUSF REMITTANCE: (LINE 6) minus (LINE 13 + LINE 15)

A negative amount indicates a NMSRUSF payment is due to the carrier. If the result is positive, the submission will calculate the Net Remittance to be paid. If the result is negative, this indicates that a NMSRUSF payment is due to the carrier.

Officer Name and Officer Title

Enter the officer name and officer title for the contact at the company headquarters.

Filer Name, Filer Email and Filer Phone

The filer name, filer email and filer phone number will automatically be displayed and is associated with the online filing user credentials.

Payment Submission Information

Payments must be remitted directly to Bank of Albuquerque. Please see **Attachment C** "NMSRUSF Payment Submission Information" for additional details.