

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

Tariff No. T-7

The T-7 Tariff provides a central location for issues that affect many or all companies. Terms, conditions, and rates contained herein, are available for concurrence by any provider in that provider's individual tariff. Use of the T-7 is not required.

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Explanation of Symbols

- (C) – to signify changed regulation or rate (See note below)
- (D) – to signify discontinued or deleted rate or regulation
- (I) – to signify increase
- (N) – to signify new rate or regulation
- (R) – to signify reduction
- (S) – to signify reissued or relocated material/text
- (T) – to signify a change in text but no change in rate or regulation

NOTE: When used in reference to a rate, the symbol (C) indicates that a changed rate or method of applying a rate will result in either an increase or a decrease for certain customers.

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1.0 **INDIANA UNIVERSAL SERVICE SURCHARGE¹**

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1.1 Description

Pursuant to the requirements of the Final Order in Cause No. 42144, all customer billings on and after October 1, 2007 shall reflect an additional charge to fund the Indiana Universal Service Fund (IUSF). The purpose of the IUSF is to implement a competitively neutral funding mechanism that promotes universal telecommunication service to all Indiana residents by ensuring availability of basic telecommunications services at just, reasonable, and affordable rates that are reasonably comparable between urban and rural areas of Indiana.

1.2 Conditions

- a. The surcharge will apply to net intrastate retail telecommunications services.
- b. The surcharge is subject to change pursuant to the procedure set forth in the Final Order in Cause No. 42144.

1.3 Amount of Surcharge

Monthly Surcharge: 0.54 percent of net intrastate retail telecommunications services

1.4 Concurrence

The surcharge shall be applied by all companies that provide intrastate retail telecommunications service. Telecommunications providers that maintain a tariff with the Commission shall file a concurrence with this tariff, or file their own equivalent tariff. Telecommunications providers that do not submit a tariff but are subject to the Commission's authority shall be bound by the Commission's tariff (i.e. AOS, all Indiana ETC including Co-ops). All other carriers, to ensure compliance with the IUSF program, shall follow the substantive provisions contained in the tariff.

¹Material on this sheet formerly appeared on the Preface Sheet and Part I, Section 3, Original Sheet 5.

2.0 **LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS**²

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2.1 Description

Low-Income Programs consist of two programs, Lifeline Assistance and Link Up Assistance. The Company participates in both of these assistance programs to increase the availability of telecommunications services to all consumers in its serving areas.

Lifeline and Link Up Low-Income Programs were approved pursuant to the Commission's Order of November 5, 1997, in Cause No. 40785. Pursuant to that Order, any telecommunications carriers desiring to be declared an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") for the purpose of receiving interstate Universal Service Funds may file a concurrence in I.U.R.C. T-7, Lifeline and Link Up tariff, or may file a stand-alone tariff for such low-income programs (Cause No. 40785, Page 10). The structure of each program is outlined in the following paragraphs.

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2.2 Definitions

The following terms shall be defined as follows:

Qualifying low-income subscriber – a subscriber who meets the low-income eligibility criteria established by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission:

Participation in at least one of the following federal programs:

- a. Medicaid; food stamps; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); federal public housing assistance or Section 8 (a Federal Housing Assistance Program administered by the Department of Urban Development); Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or the National School Lunch's free lunch program (NSL).
- b. Annual Household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Toll blocking – a service provided by carriers that lets consumers elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from their telecommunications channel.

Toll control – a service provided by carriers that allows consumers to specify a certain amount of toll usage that may be incurred on their telecommunications channel per month or per billing cycle.

Toll limitation -- denotes both toll blocking and toll control.

²Material on this sheet formerly appeared on the Preface Sheet and Part I, Section 3, 2nd Revised Sheet 1.

2.0 **LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS (Continued)**³

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2.3 Lifeline Assistance

a. Description

Lifeline Assistance reduces an eligible Customer's monthly Federal Subscriber Line Charge and rates for local service. An eligible customer receives credit for the Federal Subscriber Line Charge as well as a credit towards the residential local exchange access line rate.

b. Regulations

1. Lifeline Assistance is available to all residential customers who meet the following eligibility requirements:
 - i. Customers must be participants in at least one of the following programs: Medicaid, food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), federal public housing assistance or Section 8 (a Federal Housing Assistance Program administered by the Department of Urban Development), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or the National School Lunch's free lunch program (NSL).
 - ii. Annual Household Income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
2. As a participant in Lifeline Assistance, customers are eligible to receive Toll Blocking Service or Toll Control Service, as described in their Indiana Serving Tariff, at no charge. These services will only be provided at the customer's request.
3. Local service deposit requirements will be waived for customers who voluntarily receive Toll Blocking Service or Toll Control Service.
4. Participants in Lifeline Assistance shall not be disconnected from Local service for non-payment of toll charges. In addition, the Company will not deny re-establishment of local service to customers who are eligible for Lifeline Assistance and have previously been disconnected for non-payment of toll charges.
5. Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers will first be applied to local service charges and then to any outstanding toll charges.

³Material on this sheet formerly appeared on Part I, Section 3, 2nd Revised Sheet 2.

2.0 LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS (Continued)⁴

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2.3 Lifeline Assistance (Continued)

c. Credits

The following credits will apply for each customer eligible for Lifeline Assistance:

	<u>Monthly Credit</u>
Federal Subscriber Line charge Credit	*
Residential Local Exchange Service Credit	\$1.75

2.4 Link-Up Assistance (Lifeline Connection Assistance)

a. Description

Link-Up Assistance is described as an assistance program for qualifying low-income consumers that consists of a reduction in the customary charges for commencing telecommunications service and a deferred schedule for payment of charges assessed for commencing service for which the consumer does not pay interest. All eligible customers receive a credit for half of the service connection charges up to \$30.00 and do not pay interest on connection charges of up to \$200.00 that are deferred for a period not to exceed one year.

b. Regulation

1. The same eligibility requirements, as outlined in paragraph 3.3-b-1 above, will apply for Link-Up Assistance.
2. This credit is only available on the installation of a single residential access line at the principal residence of the eligible customer.
3. This credit will apply for a second or subsequent time only for a principal place of residence with an address different from the residence address at which the Link-Up Assistance was provided previously.
4. An eligible low-income consumer may choose either or both the Service Connection Charges Credit and the Deferred Payment Schedule.

*The rate authorized by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") in its Order of November 8, 2001, in CC Docket No. 00-256 or as may be changed by any subsequent FCC Order.

⁴Material on this sheet formerly appeared on Part I, Section 3, 1st Revised Sheet 3.

2.0 **LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS (Continued)**⁵

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2.4 Link-Up Assistance (Lifeline Connection Assistance) (Continued)

c. Service Connection Charges Credit:

Half of Service Connection Charges or \$30.00, whichever is less.

d. Deferred Payment Schedule

A deferred schedule (not to exceed a period of one year) for payment of the Service Connection Charges up to \$200.00, for which the consumer does not pay interest. These Service Connection Charges do not include any permissible security deposit requirements.

⁵Material on this sheet formerly appeared on Part I, Section 3, Original Sheet 4.

3.0 DUAL PARTY RELAY SERVICES SURCHARGE⁶

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3.1 Description

Dual Party Relay Services for hearing impaired and speech impaired persons provide access to telephone services that are functionally equivalent to those provided to individuals not having hearing or speech impairments. Dual Party Relay Services are subject to rules and regulations as prescribed by the FCC (Disabilities Act of 1990, 47 U.S.C. 225) and the House of Enrolled Act 1608.

Dual Party Relay Access Service was approved pursuant to the Commission's Order of September 11, 2002, in Cause No. 39880-INTRAC4. Pursuant to that Order, "All Indiana local exchange telephone companies, prior to placing in effect the new surcharge, shall either concur in the IURC T-7 tariff, Section 4, or file a company-specific revised tariff with the Commission's Telecommunications Division." (Cause No. 39880-INTRAC4, Page 3)

This surcharge is imposed on each residence and business line (or line equivalent) to fund and recover the costs for developing and providing Dual Party Relay Services.

3.2 Amount of Surcharge

<u>Charges</u>	<u>Monthly Surcharge</u>
Per residence line or business line or line equivalent	\$.03

⁶Material on this sheet formerly appeared on Part I, Section 4, 1st Revised Sheet 1.