

AUSF Programs

The Alaska Universal Service Fund (AUSF) is a surcharge that appear on monthly bill for in-state telecommunications service. The AUSF was established in 1998 to promote the efficiency, availability, and affordability of universal telephone service in Alaska. AUSF provides support for the following five programs:

- Lifeline Program – helps qualified low income customers receive a discount on monthly telephone service.
- Dial Equipment Minute (DEM) Weighting – provides support to certain small local phone companies with high switching costs.
- Public Interest Pay Telephones (PIPT) – supports the cost of pay telephones in locations where they are needed for health, safety, or public welfare.
- Common Carrier Line (CCL) Support – supports long-distance service providers to reduce in-state long distance calling rates.
- Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) – supports local phone companies in the most remote areas of Alaska to maintain the essential infrastructure that connects customers to the local, wireless, and long-distance networks.

Public utilities that provide telecommunications services within Alaska are required to remit AUSF payments to the [Alaska Universal Service Administrative Company](#) (AUSAC), the entity selected by the RCA to administer the AUSF.