

**BEFORE THE
ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**REQUEST FOR UNIVERSAL SERVICE ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER STATUS IN ALABAMA**

1. State the name and mailing address of the carrier seeking Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Status in Alabama:

2. State the full name, title, address (if different than above), telephone number and facsimile number of a contact person with the requesting carrier:

3. _____ Check here to certify that the requesting carrier offers all of the following services throughout the service area requested herein:

- a. Single Party Service** (or its functional equivalent) which is defined as a telecommunications service that permits users to have exclusive use of a wireline subscriber loop or access line for each call placed, or in the case of wireless telecommunications carriers which use spectrum shared among users to provide service, a dedicated message path for the length of a user's particular transmission.

- b. Voice Grade Access to the Public Switched Network** which is defined as a functionality that enables a user of telecommunications services to transmit voice communications including signaling the network that the caller wishes to place a call and to receive voice communications including receiving a signal indicating there is an incoming call. For purposes of Universal Service, bandwidth for voice grade access should be, at a minimum, 300 hertz to 3,000 hertz.
- c. Local Usage** which is defined to mean an amount of minutes of use of exchange service provided free of charge to end users as prescribed by the FCC.
- d. Dual tone, multi-frequency signaling (or its functional equivalent)** which is defined as a method of signaling that facilitates the transportation of signaling through the network, shortening call setup time.
- e. Access to Emergency Services** which is defined to include access to services such as 911 and Enhanced 911 (E-911) provided by local governments or other public safety organizations. 911 is specifically defined as a service that permits a telecommunications user, by dialing the three digit code 911, to call emergency services through a public safety answering point (PSAP) operated by local government. E-911 is defined as 911 service that includes the ability to provide automatic numbering identification (ANI) which enables the PSAP to call back if the call is disconnected and automatic location information (ALI) which permits emergency service providers to identify the geographic location of the calling party. Access to emergency services includes access to 911 and E-911 to the extent the local government in an eligible carrier's service area has implemented 911 or E-911 systems.
- f. Access to Operator Services** which is defined as access to any automatic or live assistance to a consumer to arrange for billing or completion, or both, of a telephone call.
- g. Access to Interexchange Service** which is defined as the use of the loop as well as that portion of the switch that is paid for by the end user, or the functional equivalent of these network elements in the case of a wireless carrier, necessary to access an interexchange carrier's network.
- h. Access to directory assistance** which is defined as access to a service that includes, but is not limited to, making available to customers upon request information contained in directory listings.
- i. Toll limitation services for qualifying low income customers** which is defined to include toll blocking and/or toll limitation. Toll blocking enables consumers to elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from their telecommunications channel while toll control services allow consumers to specify a certain amount of toll usage that may be incurred on their telecommunications channel per month or per billing cycle.

4. _____ Check here if the requesting carrier seeks additional time to complete network upgrades needed to offer single party service, access to E-911 service, and/or toll limitation services as defined above. If additional time is requested to complete network upgrades to offer any such services, attach hereto a petition for the additional time necessary to complete those network upgrades and specify therein the services which cannot be offered until such network upgrades are completed. The petition for additional time should be specific as to the additional time requested, the network upgrades undertaken, and should include an explanation of the exceptional circumstances which prevent the petitioning carrier from providing single party service, access to E-911 or toll limitation as applicable.

5. _____ Check here to certify that the requesting carrier provides the services supported by the Universal Service fund through its own facilities or through a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services.

6. _____ Check here to certify that the requesting carrier will advertise the availability of the services it has designated for Universal Service support and the charges therefor using media of general distribution.

7. Designate with specificity the service area for which the requesting carrier seeks eligible telecommunications carrier status. [NOTE: Absent a demonstration of compelling circumstances to the contrary, the Commission envisions certifying the rural incumbent local exchange carriers as the sole eligible telecommunications carriers for their existing certificated service areas. Similarly, the Commission envisions certifying the non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers as eligible telecommunications carriers for their existing certificated service areas. Although the vast majority of the alternative local exchange carriers (ALECs) certified by this Commission are authorized to provide service statewide (subject to the requirements of the Commission's September 20, 1995 Order in Joint Dockets 24499, 24472, 24030 and 24865 as well as the Commission's October 8, 1996 Order in Docket 24472), those ALECs who are actually providing service may seek to serve much smaller areas. We believe it will be appropriate to determine the service areas for such ALECs for purposes of federal Universal Service support based on their response herein.]

8. Attestation

I _____ certify that I am the company
(Type or print name of official)
officer/employee responsible for this request and that I have examined/formulated the
foregoing request. To the best of my knowledge, information and belief, all statements of
fact contained in said request are correct statements of the business and affairs of the
requesting carrier with respect to each and every matter set forth.

Dated _____

Telephone Number _____

Signature _____

County of: _____

State of: _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a _____ in and for said State and County
above named, this _____ day of _____, _____.

(Notary Public) _____

(Seal)

My Commission Expires: _____