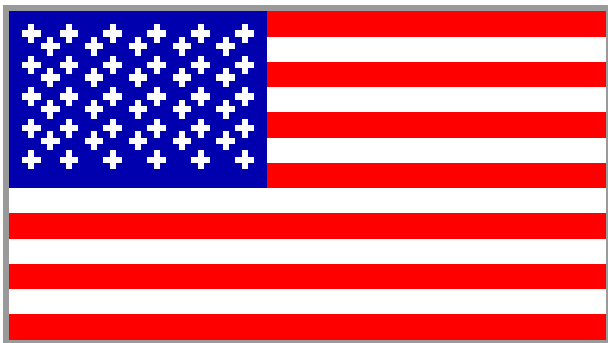
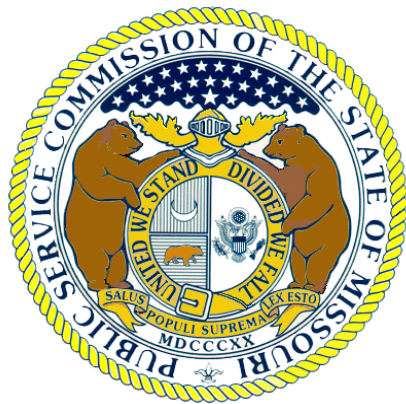


Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency (RURA), National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions (NARUC) and Missouri Public Service Commission (MPSC) Regulatory Partnership Program



Sponsored by US Agency for International Development (USAID)

Social Policies and Tariffs (Telecommunications)

**Wednesday, October 27, 2004
13:30**

John Van Eschen

Telecom Social Policies

- “Universal Service” Policy
 - To ensure everyone can afford telephone service wherever they live.
- Hearing/Speech-impaired Policy.
 - To ensure deaf, hearing-impaired and speech-impaired individuals have reasonable access to telecommunications service.
- Abbreviated 3-digit dialing arrangements (N11)

Universal Service Principles

- Quality services should be available at just, reasonable and affordable rates.
- Access to advanced telecommunications and information services should be provided in all regions of the Nation.
- Schools, libraries and health care providers should have access to advanced telecommunications services.

Universal Service Fund Programs

- Low-income program
- High Cost Support program
- Schools and libraries program
- Rural Health Care program

Low Income Program

- Enable qualifying low-income consumers to have discounted telephone rates.
 - “Lifeline”
 - Reductions in monthly charges
 - “Link-Up”
 - Reductions in installation charges

High Cost Support Program

- Provides financial support to companies providing telecom services in high cost areas.

Schools and Libraries Program

- This program ensures schools and libraries have access to educational resources accessible through the telecom network.
- In addition to the federal USF schools and libraries program, Missouri law directed the Missouri Commission to ensure schools have access to substantially reduced telecommunications rates.

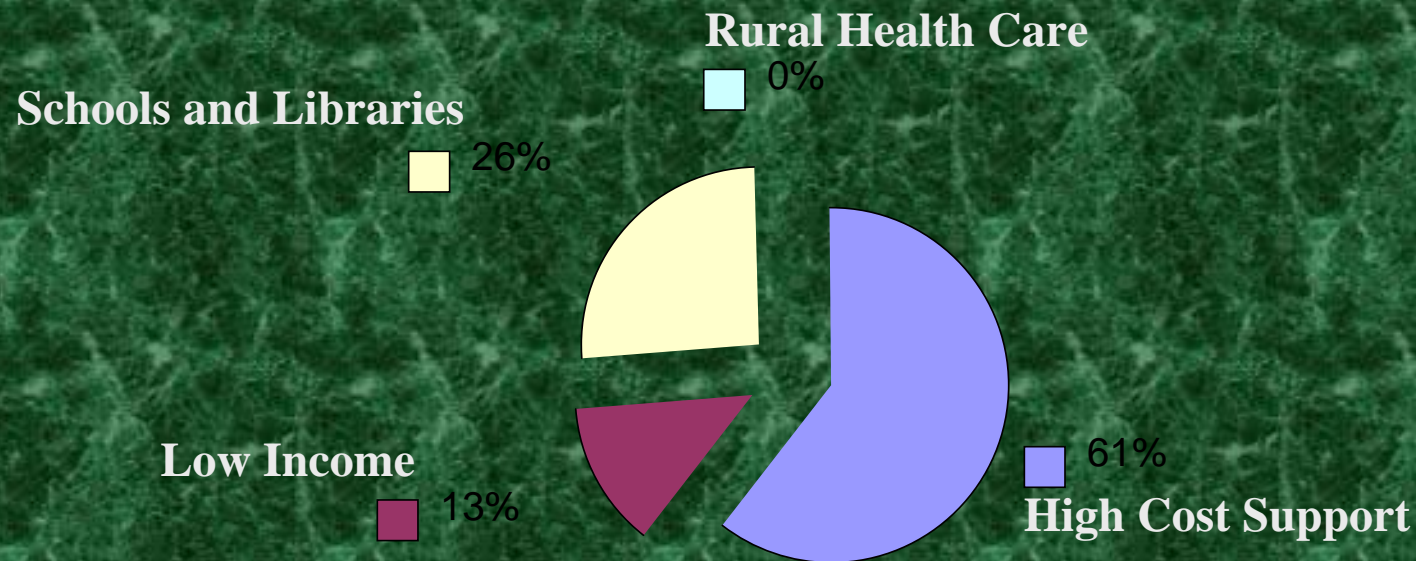
Rural Health Care Program

- This program helps link rural health care providers with urban medical centers.

How is the USF funded?

- All telecommunications carriers contribute based on the carrier's revenue.
 - Some carriers bill their own customers to recover this assessment.
 - Third quarter USF assessment factor is 8.9%.
 - Both wireline and wireless companies contribute to the federal USF.

Federal Universal Service Fund



Total for 2003: \$5,408,691,846

Hearing/Speech-Impaired Policy

- Enable deaf, hearing-impaired and speech-impaired persons to have reasonable access to telecommunications service.

Programs for Hearing/Speech-Impaired Consumers

- Relay Service
- Equipment Distribution Program

Relay Service Funding

- Telecommunications carriers can be assessed.
- Consumers can be directly billed.

Abbreviated 3-digit Dialing (“N11”)

- 211 (community referral information)
- 311 (non-emergency & gov. services)
- 411 (local directory assistance)
- 511 (travel/road conditions)
- 611(LEC repair service)
- 711 (relay service)
- 811 (LEC business office)
- 911 (emergency service)

Questions?

