



COMMISSIONERS:  
ERIC KAMLER  
CHRISTIAN MIRCH  
TIM SCHRAM  
KEVIN STOCKER  
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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** All Nebraska ETCs  
**From:** Cullen Robbins, Director, Telecommunications & NUSF Department  
Dave Sankey, Director, State 911 Department  
**Date:** August 6, 2024  
**Re:** Change to Surcharge Collection and Remittance Requirements for Lifeline Services

Nebraska Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) are hereby advised that the Commission has adopted findings in Commission Docket No. C-5559/NUSF-141 affecting the collection and remittance of surcharges on Lifeline services.<sup>1</sup> In this docket, the Commission was presented with a question as to whether the Applicant, as a provider of Lifeline and Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program (“NTAP”) services, should be required to assess and collect the Enhanced Wireless 911 Surcharge (“911 Surcharge”).

Upon a review of applicable statutes, the Commission found that requiring carriers to collect surcharges on Lifeline services may create a barrier to low-income consumers. **The Commission therefore found that consistent with the NUSF surcharge, it will not require the TRS and 911 Surcharges to be collected and remitted for postpaid and free-to-the-customer Lifeline and NTAP services provided in Nebraska.**<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Docket No. C-5559/NUSF-141, *In the Matter of the Application of Assurance Wireless USA, L.P., Bellevue, Washington, seeking designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Nebraska for the Limited Purpose of Providing Lifeline and NTAP Service to Qualifying Customers*, Order Granting Application (July 23, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> The NUSF surcharge is not required to be collected on Lifeline and NTAP services. See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-329(3).

This finding does not affect other obligations carriers may have, including the collection and remittance of surcharges pursuant to the Prepaid Wireless Surcharge Act.<sup>3</sup> Additional prepaid services offered to Lifeline customers, such as the purchasing of additional voice minute (“top-ups”), remain subject to applicable surcharges. Carriers providing telecommunications services other than Lifeline services must still collect and remit the NUSF, TRS, and 911 surcharges on those non-Lifeline prepaid and postpaid services in accordance with Nebraska statutes.

All other previous guidance and Commission findings regarding the NUSF, TRS, and 911 surcharges remain in place. Carriers must continue to comply with Commission audit procedures and all other Commission rules, regulations, and statutes.

Questions regarding this policy change, or regarding audit procedures, may be directed to Commission staff as follows:

Phone: 402-471-3101

Communications/NUSF Department: [psc.nusf@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.nusf@nebraska.gov)

State 911 Department: [psc.state911@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.state911@nebraska.gov)

Thank you for your continued work in providing needed services to Nebraska residents. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

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<sup>3</sup> See Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-901 – 86-905.