

## VPS Consulting

# End of Year Reminders

MUST COMPLY BY DECEMBER 31, 2023.

## Summary

Here are a few non-state specific year-end reminders that you may have already taken care of in 2023, but just in case you have not, please make sure you are compliant with the following by December 31, 2023.

### National Do-Not-Call Registry

Federal rule §64.1200(g) requires Common Carriers of local exchange service to provide an annual bill insert furnishing information regarding the National Do-Not-Call registry.

The FCC does not specify the exact language of the bill insert but states that it must be “clear and conspicuous” and at a minimum, must include the toll-free telephone number 1-888-382-1222 or 1-866-290-4236 (TTY) and the internet address ([www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov)) established by the Federal Trade Commission for the consumer to register or revoke registration with the National Do-Not-Call database. Customers should also know that telemarketers have 31 days to stop calling new numbers on the list. Registered telephone number(s) will remain on the list until the number is disconnected or the customer asks for it to be removed. The national registry is nationwide in scope, applies to all telemarketers, with the exception of certain non-profit organizations, and covers both interstate and intrastate telemarketing calls. A consumer who receives a telemarketing call despite being on the federal registry will be able to file a complaint by visiting [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or by calling 1-888-382-1222 or 1-866-290-4236 (TTY).

*For more information or if you would like VPS guidance, please contact:*

**Troy Eilts** at (605) 995-1830, [Troy.Eilts@vantagepnt.com](mailto:Troy.Eilts@vantagepnt.com)

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### ETC Annual Notice

Federal rule §54.201(d)(2) requires ETC’s to advertise and provide notice that it is an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) and as such, Federal Universal Service Fund (FUSF) support is received. Specifically, Section

214(e)(1)(B) of the Act and CFR §54.201(d)(2) states that an ETC must “advertise the availability of such services and the charges therefore using media of general distribution.” The supported services as listed in §54.101(s) are:

- Voice grade access to the public switched network
- Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge
- Access to emergency services
- Toll limitation services to qualifying low-income consumers
- Eligible Broadband Internet Access Services (capability to transmit data to and receive data by wire or radio from all or substantially all Internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of the communications service, but excluding dial-up service)

*For more information or if you would like VPS guidance, please contact:*

**Doug Eidahl, JD** at (605) 995-1750, [Doug.Eidahl@vantagepnt.com](mailto:Doug.Eidahl@vantagepnt.com)

**Mikaela Burma, JD** at (605) 995-1742, [Mikaela.Burma@vantagepnt.com](mailto:Mikaela.Burma@vantagepnt.com)

## Lifeline Annual Notice

Federal rule §54.405(b) requires ETC’s “publicize the availability of Lifeline service in a manner reasonable designed to reach those likely to qualify for the service.” This can be accomplished by publishing Lifeline information in all local newspapers throughout the service area.

*For more information or if you would like VPS guidance, please contact:*

**Courtney Spears** at (830) 895-7221, [Courtney.Spears@vantagepnt.com](mailto:Courtney.Spears@vantagepnt.com)

**Mara Vasile** at (605) 995-1828, [Mara.Vasile@vantagepnt.com](mailto:Mara.Vasile@vantagepnt.com)

## RUS Borrowers

RUS borrowers shall notify participants, beneficiaries, applicants, employees, and other interested persons of the organization’s nondiscrimination policy by (1) displaying the most current version of “And Justice For All” poster (Form AD475A) in the headquarters and branch office lobbies where it is easily visible to the general public, (2) posting the required Statement of Nondiscrimination in the headquarters and branch office lobbies where it is easily visible to the general public, (3) publishing the Statement of Nondiscrimination in the local newspaper(s) annually and (4) providing a copy of the Statement of Nondiscrimination to all new customers and employees.

*For more information or if you would like VPS guidance, please contact:*

**Kristy Szabo** at (605) 995-1786, [Kristy.Szabo@vantagepnt.com](mailto:Kristy.Szabo@vantagepnt.com)

## Backup Power Obligations

Federal rules require Covered Providers to notify residential non-line powered subscribers (i.e., those served via fiber, fixed wireless, etc.) of service limitations in the event of a power outage. Notification must be provided to affected customers at the Point of Sale and annually thereafter. Covered Providers are carriers that offer facilities based residential fixed voice services that are not line-powered. Covered Providers are currently required to offer subscribers the option to purchase a 24-hour minimum standby backup power (may be accomplished via three 8-hour battery backups) or direct them as to where they can purchase the backup power. Carriers can provide the backup power free of charge but are not required to do so.

*For more information or if you would like VPS guidance, please contact:*

**Courtney Spears** at (830) 895-7221, [Courtney.Spears@vantagepnt.com](mailto:Courtney.Spears@vantagepnt.com)

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## HUBB Reporting Obligations

Carriers participating in modernized Connect America Fund programs must file High-Cost Universal Broadband (HUBB) deployment data with USAC by March 1 annually. **Note that even if there are no locations to update, certification is still required.** In addition, multiple files may be uploaded and certified throughout the year, so we encourage you to capture and upload into the HUBB the affected locations as buildout/upgrade projects complete. The next deadline is March 1, 2024, and carriers will need to report as follows:

- ACAM I & Revised ACAM – Report all newly deployed/upgraded locations for calendar year 2023
- ACAM II – Report all newly deployed/upgraded locations for calendar year 2023
- Enhanced ACAM - Report all newly deployed/upgraded locations for calendar year 2023
- Legacy CAF BLS – Report all newly deployed/upgraded locations for calendar year 2023
- Legacy CAF BLS who previously did not have reporting obligations – Report all newly deployed/upgraded locations for calendar year 2023
- Alaska Plan (those with set obligations) – Report all newly deployed/upgraded locations for calendar year 2023 along with Middle-Mile Maps
- Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) - Report all newly deployed/upgraded locations for calendar year 2023
- CAF Phase II Auction - Report all newly deployed/upgraded locations for calendar year 2023
- CAF Phase II Model - Report all newly deployed/upgraded locations for calendar year 2023
- Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) – Report all newly deployed/upgraded locations as outlined in the appropriate RDOF Support Authorized Public Notice

Remember that in addition to uploading newly deployed/upgraded locations in the HUBB by March 1 each year, milestones must separately be certified in the HUBB on the Milestone tab.

*For more information or if you would like VPS guidance, please contact:*

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## Performance Testing

Although not necessarily an end-of-year reminder, an important reminder related to the required Performance Testing. Recipients of the following CAF support programs are required to conduct quarterly speed and latency testing and report the results via the USAC Performance Measures Module (PMM).

- CAF Phase II Model
- Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE)
- Alaska Plan (carriers required to file in the HUBB)
- ACAM I
- ACAM I Revised

- ACAM II
- Legacy Rate of Return (CAF BLS)
- CAF II Auction and NY Broadband Program
- Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) – Test as outlined in the appropriate RDOF Support Authorized Public Notice

**CAF BLS, ACAM II and CAF II Auction Recipients must obtain new Performance Measures (PMM) samples for 2024-2025 testing. Closer to the end of the year, USAC will notify carriers who participate in these funds as to when the PMM will be ready to accept updated subscriber location data and generate new random location samples.**

Note that Enhanced ACAM participants must continue with current Performance Testing Requirements. Beginning January 1, 2026, Enhanced ACAM recipients will begin Pre-Testing and January 1, 2027, Enhanced ACAM recipients will begin Testing.

*For more information or if you would like VPS guidance, please contact:*

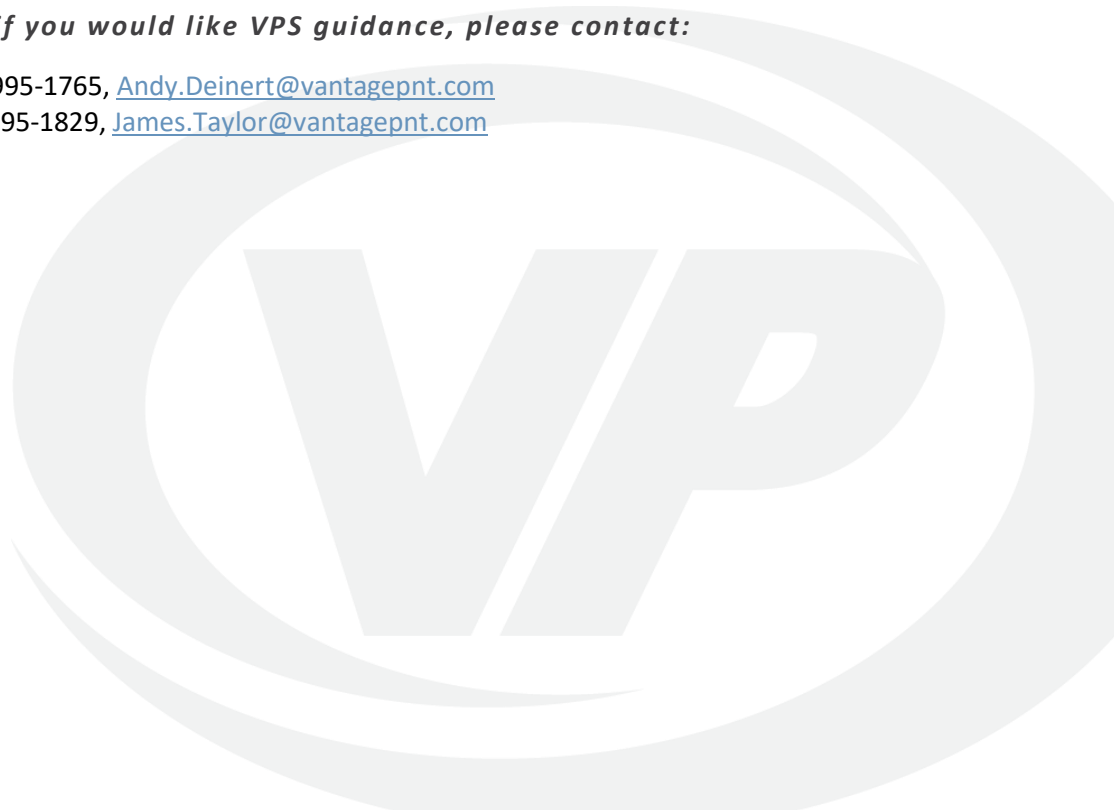
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## Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Requirements

By January 1, 2024, Enhanced A-CAM electors are required to implement operational cybersecurity and supply chain risk management plans. Carriers must submit the plans to USAC, and certify that they have done so, by January 2, 2024, or within 30 days of approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act, whichever is later. Failure to submit the plans and certification will result in 25% of monthly support being withheld until compliance is achieved.

*For more information or if you would like VPS guidance, please contact:*

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## End of Year Key Contacts

For more information on these issues or if you would like VPS guidance, please contact the following members of the Vantage Point Solutions team:



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**Key Areas:**  
National Do-Not-Call Registry  
Lifeline Annual Notice



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National Do-Not-Call Registry  
HUBB Reporting Obligations



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**Key Areas:**  
Lifeline Annual Notice  
Backup Power Obligations  
HUBB Reporting Obligations



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ETC Annual Notice



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RUS Borrowers



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