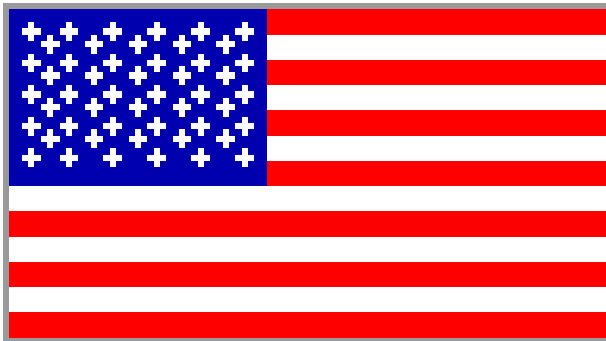
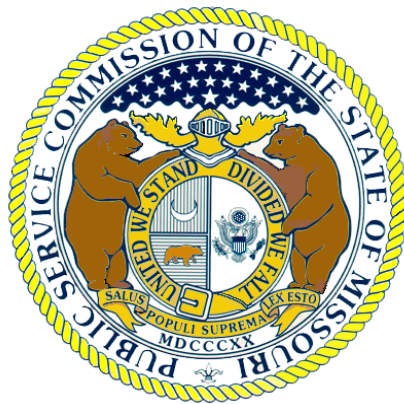


**Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency (RURA), National
Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions (NARUC)
and Missouri Public Service Commission (MPSC)
Regulatory Partnership Program**



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.

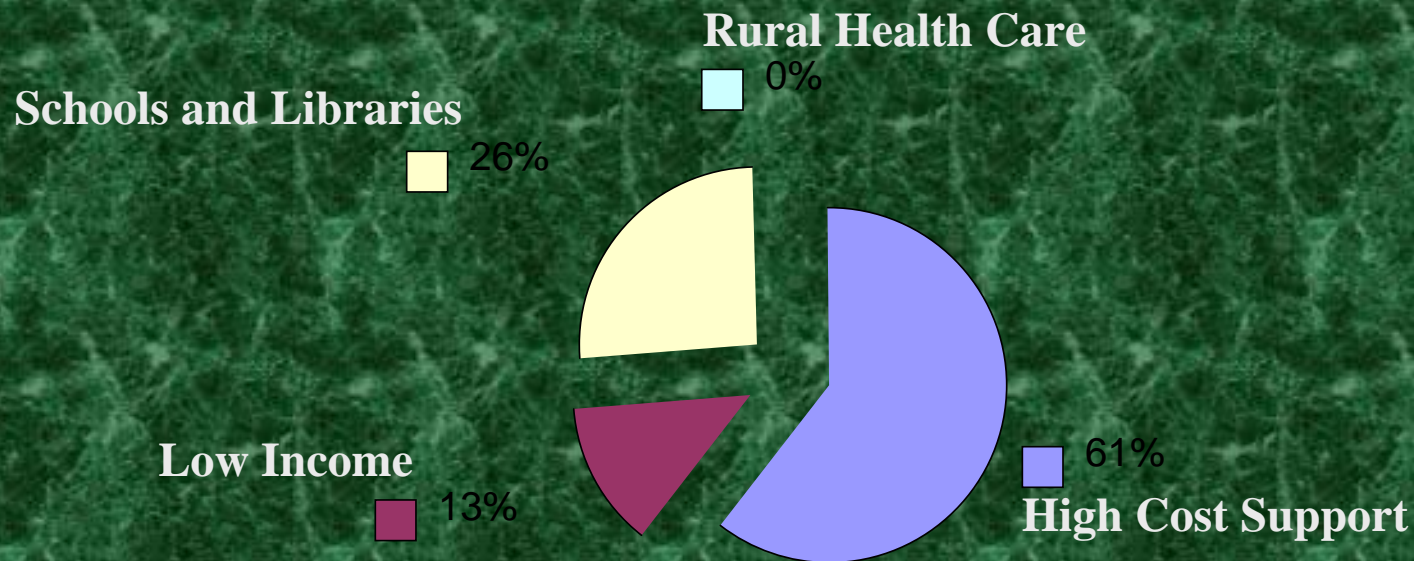
Rural Health Care Program

- 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?

