

Arkansas High Cost Fund (ARHCF)

Arkansas Public Service Commission Docket No. 07-062-R Order No.6 (dated 7/20/07) has repealed the Arkansas Universal Service Fund Rules. It has also adopted the Arkansas High Cost Fund (AR HCF) Rules to provide support to ETCs effective beginning in September (the month after 150 days after the law was passed) pursuant to the provisions of Act 385 of 2007 and to defray the costs of administering the fund, including the costs of completing an annual, independent audit.

ARHCF Assessment Rates	
Period	Rate
2008	0.0140
2009, Jan-May	0.0149
2009, June-Dec	0.0165
2010 Jan-Mar	0.0175
2010 Apr-Dec	0.0200
2011	0.0200
The above rates have been approved and confirmed.	

Rule 1.01 indicates that pursuant to Act 77 of 1997 and Act 385 of 2007, the Commission has the authority and responsibility to assess a universal service fee upon all providers of telecommunications services, as defined by the rules of the Commission to support State universal service objectives, within the state of Arkansas. Every telecommunications provider that operates or provides retail telecommunications services within Arkansas shall contribute, on a nondiscriminatory basis, into the AR HCF (Rule 4.01). Is VoIP a telecommunications service and therefore subject to the assessments of the ARHCF?

Arkansas ETFF

Under the authority of Act 1842 of 2001 (Ark. Code Ann. § 23-17-404) the APSC created the Arkansas Extension of Telecommunications Facilities Fund (ARETFF). The Arkansas Extension of Telecommunications Facilities Fund was established in 2002 as a grant program for the extension of facilities to persons unserved by wire line telecommunications services. Please see Arkansas Public Service Commission Docket No. 02-080-A for additional information about the ARETFF.

- Grant Request Application Instructions ETFF-1 (Adobe pdf file)
- Grant Request Application ETFF-1 (Microsoft® Excel file)
- Grant True-Up Application Instructions ETFF-2 (Adobe pdf file)
- Grant True-Up Application Form ETFF-2 (Microsoft® Excel file)