

**LIFELINE MODERNIZATION ORDER**  
**Changes to ETC Designations and Obligations**  
**March 2016**

	<b>Entry</b>	<b>Obligations</b>	<b>Exit</b>
<b><i>Lifeline-only ETCs (existing or new)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated by the state commission or the FCC if the state lacks jurisdiction.<sup>i</sup></li> <li>No procedural changes.</li> <li>Can continue to be designated by the state or FCC indefinitely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible to receive Lifeline support for voice and BIAS.<sup>ii</sup></li> <li>May avail themselves of forbearance from the obligation to offer BIAS.<sup>iii</sup></li> <li>May meet the advertising requirement through ads reasonably calculated to reach the general public.</li> <li>Pursuant to existing obligations, must offer service throughout their designated service areas.<sup>iv</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relinquishment process is unchanged: the ETC must file advance notice and the state commission or FCC will evaluate based on the criteria in § 214(e)(4).</li> </ul>
<b><i>ETCs that are not Lifeline-only (existing or new)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated by the state commission or the FCC if the state lacks jurisdiction.<sup>v</sup></li> <li>No procedural changes.</li> <li>Can continue to be designated by the state or FCC indefinitely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible to receive Lifeline support for voice and BIAS.<sup>vi</sup></li> <li>May avail themselves of forbearance from the obligation to offer BIAS, except where they commercially offer qualifying BIAS pursuant to their High-Cost obligations (not including Phase I frozen support).<sup>vii</sup></li> <li>Through conditional forbearance, not required to offer Lifeline-discounted voice where (1) 51% of Lifeline subscribers in a county obtain Lifeline BIAS; (2) there are at least 3 other Lifeline BIAS providers that each serve at least 5% of the Lifeline BIAS subscribers in that county; and (3) the ETC does not receive High-Cost support in that area. Subject to grandfathering for existing subscribers.<sup>viii</sup></li> <li>May meet the advertising requirement through ads reasonably calculated to reach the general public.<sup>ix</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relinquishment process is unchanged: the ETC must file advance notice and the state commission or FCC will evaluate based on the criteria in § 214(e)(4).</li> </ul>
<b><i>Lifeline Broadband Providers (new)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated by the FCC.<sup>x</sup></li> <li>If the carrier (1) serves at least 1,000 non-Lifeline customers with voice and/or BIAS; and (2) has offered BIAS to the public for the 2 years preceding the petition without interruption, the carrier receives streamlined treatment.<sup>xi</sup></li> <li>If the carrier is a Tribally-owned and -controlled facilities-based provider, the carrier receives streamlined treatment.<sup>xii</sup></li> <li>Streamlined designation process: a carrier’s petition for an LBP designation will be deemed granted 60 days after the petition unless the Bureau notifies the applicant that the grant will not be automatically effective.<sup>xiii</sup></li> <li>If the carrier does not qualify for streamlined treatment, its petition is considered under the existing process.<sup>xiv</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible to receive Lifeline support for BIAS.<sup>xv</sup></li> <li>Pursuant to existing obligations, must offer service throughout their designated service areas. May file to expand designation to new service areas, and such requests will be deemed granted after 5 days unless the Bureau notifies the LBP that the grant will not be automatically effective.<sup>xvi</sup></li> <li>May meet the advertising requirement through ads reasonably calculated to reach the general public or a specific demographic for a particular service offering.<sup>xvii</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An LBP’s advance notice of relinquishment shall be deemed granted after 60 days, unless the Bureau notifies the LBP that the relinquishment will not be automatically effective.<sup>xviii</sup></li> </ul>

(Endnotes providing relevant section numbers on next page)

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- <sup>i</sup> Section III.E.1.d.
  - <sup>ii</sup> Sections III.E.2.b(i), III.E.2.c(i).
  - <sup>iii</sup> Section III.E.2.b.(i).
  - <sup>iv</sup> Section III.E.2.d.
  - <sup>v</sup> Section III.E.1.d.
  - <sup>vi</sup> Section III.E.2.b(ii).
  - <sup>vii</sup> Section III.E.2.b(ii).
  - <sup>viii</sup> Section III.E.2.c(ii).
  - <sup>ix</sup> Section III.E.2.d.
  - <sup>x</sup> Section III.E.1.b.
  - <sup>xi</sup> Section III.E.1.c(ii).
  - <sup>xii</sup> Section III.E.1.c(ii).
  - <sup>xiii</sup> Section III.E.1.c(ii).
  - <sup>xiv</sup> Section III.E.1.c(ii).
  - <sup>xv</sup> Sections III.E.2.b(iii), III.E.2.c(iii).
  - <sup>xvi</sup> Section III.E.1.c(ii).
  - <sup>xvii</sup> Section III.E.2.d.
  - <sup>xviii</sup> Section III.E.2.b(iii).