

LUMEN

July 27, 2026

Mr. Steven Kahl
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: CenturyLink 2026 Federal ETC filing for Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC

Dear Mr. Kahl:

On November 18, 2011, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") released its *USF/ICC Transformation Order* in WC Docket No. 10-90, et al. With that Order, the FCC began a transition to a national framework for certification of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers ("ETCs") and set forth a standard set of information that all ETCs must file with the FCC by July 1st of each year. The Order also required ETCs to provide the same information to the respective state commissions.

The annual ETC reporting requirements are contained in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 of the FCC's rules. For the reporting of the data and certifications required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 and 54.422, the FCC has developed a reporting template, Form 481, to be utilized by ETCs.

Beginning with the filing due on July 1, 2018, the FCC Form 481 no longer requires that high-cost recipients file information regarding network outages; unfulfilled service requests; the number of complaints received by an ETC per 1,000 subscribers for voice and broadband services; and pricing for voice and broadband services. The FCC Form 481 also no longer includes certifications for high-cost recipients regarding service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Finally, the FCC centralized filing of the FCC Form 481; ETCs no longer file duplicate copies of FCC Form 481 with the FCC and with states, U.S. Territories, and/or Tribal governments.

These filings are now provided to USAC through their online "E-File" portal and available to the State Commissions.

USAC has provided instructions indicating that: Applicants are required to complete and submit all forms online through USAC's "E-File" portal at:

Universal Service Administrative Company. A Form 481 is required to be submitted through this link. To create an online E-File account, please refer to the instructions on Home - Universal Service Administrative Company

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Enclosed, as required by the Commission, is Form 481 (Lifeline only) as filed by CenturyLink with the FCC on or before July 1. Otherwise, the Form 481 is available through the USAC portal as discussed above.

Consistent with past years, CenturyLink requests that you certify to the FCC pursuant to 47 C.F.R § 54.314 by October 1, 2026.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth W. Buchan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kenneth W. Buchan
Senior Manager Regulatory Finance

Enclosure

QWEST CORP-ND

FCC Form 481

State:ND

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

SAC:385144

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID:143005231

Program Year:2027

Filing Type and Contact Info

Filing Type

This information has been preselected based on High Cost and Lifeline program support paid out in the previous calendar year. If you think the filing type is incorrect, [please contact USAC](#).

☐ High Cost (Section 54.313)

☐ Lifeline (Section 54.422)

Contact Information

Include contact information for the person best able to answer questions about this form.

Contact Name(030)

Kenneth W Buchan

Phone #(035)

(318)362-1538

Contact Email Address (039)

ken.buchan@lumen.com

Lifeline Terms and Conditions (1200)

Upload Document or Link Website

Upload a descriptive document(s) AND/OR reference a specific link to your company's website.

Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans (1210)

1210 Lifeline 2026.pdf

PDF only

AND/OR

Link to Public Website(1220)

<http://www.centurylink.com/Pages/Support/LifeLine/>

Confirm Information

Check these boxes below to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to Section 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- ☐ Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers (1221)
- ☐ Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan (1222)
- ☐ Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan (1223)

1210 Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

CenturyLink, Inc. has 36 local exchange carriers (LECs) that serve as eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) providing Lifeline discounts on local telephone service for qualifying low-income customers in sixteen states. Each LEC's tariff or local terms of service contain the terms and conditions of voice telephony service plans generally available to CenturyLink residential customers. Lifeline provides discounts on CenturyLink residential service plans that include voice telephony service. Lifeline discounts provided to qualified recipients include the \$5.25 per month federal discount plus state discounts, if available. Tribal Lifeline recipients receive an additional federal Lifeline discount of up to \$25 per month. Eligible residents residing on Tribal lands in areas where CenturyLink receives universal service high-cost support can also receive a one-time Tribal Link Up credit of not more than \$100 against one customary service initiation fee at a primary residence.

CenturyLink's flat-rated residential voice service plans provide unlimited local calling. Lifeline discounts also may be applied to local residential service plans that include a certain number of local minutes or calls at a flat-rate and then have additional charges for minutes or calls beyond those included in the plan. Lifeline discounts may be applied to bundled service packages that include voice telephony services, such as bundles with internet service and/or video service. Lifeline discounts may also apply to voice service plans that include optional calling features such as caller ID, call waiting, and voicemail.

Toll service is available to customers receiving Lifeline discounts in the same manner that it is available to non-Lifeline customers. Toll limitation service is available to Lifeline customers at no charge.

Information concerning CenturyLink's Lifeline program can be found on our Lifeline web page at <http://www.centurylink.com/Pages/Support/LifeLine/>

A link to the CenturyLink tariff or local terms of service that includes the terms and conditions of this ETC's Lifeline offering is included in response to line 1220.

Certifications

Supply Chain Certifications

Section 54.9: Prohibition on the Use of Funds

I certify under penalty of perjury that no universal service support has been or will be used to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, or otherwise support any equipment or services produced or provided by any company designated by the Federal Communications Commission as posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain since the effective date of the designations.

If **No** is selected, a waiver is required for each SAC which is not certified.

☒ Yes

☐ No

Section 54.10: Prohibition on the Use of Certain Federal Subsidies

I certify that no federal subsidy made available through a program administered by the Commission that provides funds to be used for the capital expenditures necessary for the provision of advanced communications services has been or will be used to purchase, rent, lease, or otherwise obtain, any covered communications equipment or service, or maintain any covered communications equipment or service previously purchased, rented, leased, otherwise obtained, as required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.10.

If **No** is selected, a waiver is required for each SAC which is not certified.

☒ Yes

☐ No

Section 54.11: Requirements to Remove and Replace

Prior to answering, review section 54.11 of the Commission's rules (47 CFR Section 54.11). Answer Yes if either (1) you comply with section 54.11(a), meaning you do not use covered communications equipment or services, or (2) section 54.11(d) applies to you, meaning you are not yet subject to section 54.11(a) because you are a Reimbursement Program recipient with an unexpired removal, replacement, and disposal term per section 1.50004 (h) of the Commission's rules (47 CFR Section 1.50004(h)). Answer No if you do not comply with section 54.11(a), meaning you do use covered communications equipment or services.

☒ Yes

☐ No

QWEST CORP-ND

FCC Form 481

State:ND

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

SAC:385144

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID:143005231

Program Year:2027

Accuracy Certifications

Certify

☐ I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.

☐ I understand that making willful false statements in any part of this report and/or in these certifications is punishable by fine or imprisonment pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Sections 416(c), 503(b)(1)(B), and 18 U.S.C. Section 1001.

Signature

Officer Name

Donald Holt

Title

Chief Accounting Officer and Controller

Received Date

2026-05-26

☐ I understand this is a digital signature, and is the same as if I signed my name with a pen.