

Federal Universal Service Fund (FUSF)

The Federal Universal Service Fund is designed to provide “affordable” services to low-income individuals and to residents in rural, high-cost areas. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 expanded the traditional goal of universal service to include access to both telecommunications and advanced services such as high-speed Internet. This extended the program to include schools, libraries, and health care providers. All telecommunications service providers contribute to the support of these programs. Rates are based on an assessment of providers’ interstate and international end-user revenues and are adjusted quarterly.

Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) fee

A North Carolina state surcharge on landlines and wireless telephone connections used to fund relay centers that enable people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or DeafBlind to place and receive phone calls.

911 Surcharge fee

The 911 Fund supports the public safety answering points in North Carolina. This fee is charged to all telephone numbers and provides funding for the administrative, management and maintenance of the emergency 911 system.