



# Just So You Know

## **2018 Urban Rates for Voice & Broadband Services**

On November 8, 2017 the FCC released a Public Notice regarding the 2018 reasonable comparability benchmarks for fixed voice and broadband services for ETC's.

**Voice** - The 2018 urban average monthly rate is \$25.50 (rate floor). The reasonable comparability benchmark for voice services is two standard deviations above the urban average which results in \$45.38 (rate ceiling). ETC's are required to report via annual FCC Form 481's: (1) all residential voice services that are below the current rate floor of \$25.50, and (2) certify that residential voice services are not above the rate ceiling of \$45.38.

Although ETC's will have to report all rates that are below the current rate floor of \$25.50, ETC's will not be subject to support reductions for any rate that is at least \$18.00 due to the 2017 FCC freeze on the local rate floor.

**Broadband** - High Cost and/or Connect America Fund recipients that are subject to broadband performance obligations are required to offer at least one broadband service plan that meets the reasonable comparability benchmark. The full list of speeds and capacity allowance can be found at <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/urban-rate-survey-data>. A few popular ones are:

- 4/1 - Unlimited Usage - \$86.00
- 10/1 - Unlimited Usage - \$88.13
- 25/3 - Unlimited Usage - \$94.32

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