

199—39.2(476) Definitions. For the purposes of the commission’s implementation of federal universal service fund requirements, the following definitions apply:

“*Broadband service*” means the broadband Internet access service (defined in 47 CFR §54.400(l)) designated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 47 CFR §54.101 as eligible for support by the federal universal service support mechanisms.

“*Code of Federal Regulations*” or “*CFR*” means the Code of Federal Regulations, which contains the general administrative rules adopted by federal departments and agencies, in effect as of April 9, 2025, unless a separate effective date is identified in a specific rule.

“*Competitive eligible telecommunications carrier*” means a carrier that meets the definition of an “eligible telecommunications carrier” below and does not meet the definition of an “incumbent local exchange carrier” in 47 CFR §51.5.

“*Common carrier*” means the same as is defined in 47 CFR §9.3.

“*Eligible telecommunications carrier;*” “*eligible carrier;*” or “*ETC*” means a carrier designated by the commission as eligible to receive universal service support pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §214(e).

“*Facilities*” means any physical components of the telecommunications network that are used in the transmission or routing of the services designated for universal service fund support, as expressed in 47 CFR §54.201(e).

“*High-cost support*” means the same as defined in 47 CFR Subchapter B, Part 54, to include those support mechanisms provided pursuant to subpart D (universal service support for high-cost areas), subpart J (rural digital opportunity fund support), subpart K (interstate common line support), subpart L (mobility fund support), subpart M (high-cost loop support), and subpart O (Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund) or alternate substitute, or replacement federal Universal Service Fund programs for the distribution of funding to telecommunications carriers to deliver service in rural or other high-cost areas.

“*Lifeline program*” means the federal universal service program providing support for low-income consumers that is defined in 47 CFR §54.401.

“*Services designated for support*” means voice telephone service and broadband service.

“*Tribal Link Up*” means an assistance program for eligible residents of tribal lands seeking telecommunications service from a telecommunications carrier that is defined in 47 CFR §54.413(a).

“*Voice telephone service*” means the service (defined in 47 CFR §54.400(m)) designated by the FCC in 47 CFR §54.101 as eligible for support by the federal universal service support mechanisms.

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