

Consumer/Disability Telecommunications Advisory Committee
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

STATEMENT OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE

Preamble:

The FCC should support the Consumer Information Bureau's ("CIB") efforts to engage early consumer and industry participation in future Universal Service Fund ("USF") proceedings and should take a forward-looking approach on USF issues in our rapidly evolving technological environment.

Principles:

- USF contributions and assessments should be calculated and disclosed in an easy-to-understand manner.
- USF contributions and assessments should be equitable among customers and among members of the telecommunications industry.
- The public should be educated on the social benefits of USF.
- When the Commission evaluates Comments to its USF NPRM, it should consider as a minimum maintaining the existing Lifeline exemptions and perhaps extending such exemptions where circumstances are appropriate.
- USF should not be a profit center. However, telecommunications companies should be able to recover reasonable and demonstrable administrative costs for supporting the USF program.

Adopted: August 6, 2001