



SUBMISSION OF PROJECT IDEAS TO THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS IN THE ECTEL MEMBER STATES

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ECTEL MEMBER STATES – A SINGLE ICT SPACE

- 5 Member States
 - Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- 5 National Telecommunications Regulatory Commissions
- Regional Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL)
- Harmonized regulatory framework
 - licensing, price regulation, interconnection, **universal service**, spectrum management
- ECTEL to promote
 - open entry and competition
 - increased telecom service penetration



ECTEL 2012

More information on
ECTEL can be obtained
at www.ectel.int



UNIVERSAL SERVICE IN ECTEL STATES

“universal service” includes the provision of:

- (a) public voice telephony;
- (b) internet access;
- (c) telecommunications services to schools, hospitals and similar institutions, and the **physically challenged**; or
- (d) other service by which people access efficient, affordable and modern telecommunications

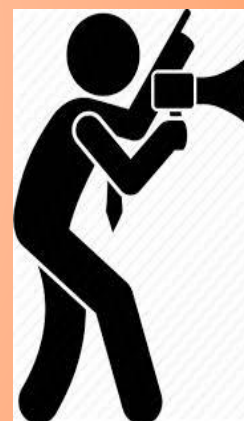


OBJECTIVE OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

- 6. (1) The Fund shall be used by the Commission to compensate any telecommunications provider who is required to provide Universal Service or to otherwise promote Universal Service pursuant to section [-] of the Act.
- (2) In using the Fund to promote universal service the Commission shall:
 - (b) ensure the reasonable availability and affordability of basic and advanced telecommunications services, including voice telephony and Internet access, as well as broadband connectivity at the community, household and individual levels, particularly where the commercial telecommunications market may be unable to deliver such services in a financially viable manner independently, as well as to the **physically challenged**, elderly, and indigent communities;

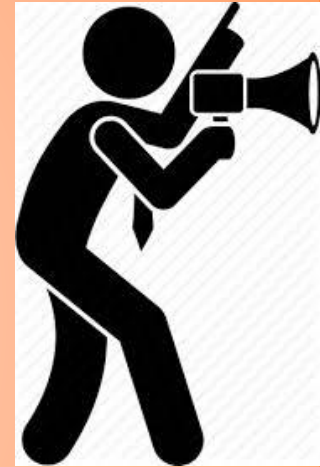
CALL FOR FUND PROJECTS

- At the beginning of each operating year, or during the year, the Fund Administrator will issue a call for projects to be considered for funding.
- Project proposal could come from
 - telecommunications service providers;
 - other interested parties; or
 - the Commission



CALL FOR FUND PROJECTS – CONT'D

- Call for projects could be done through
 - (i) public meetings
 - (ii) online
 - (iii) public announcements
 - (v) other promotional activities
- The USF will indicate the deadline for submission of project proposals



SUBMISSION OF FUND PROJECTS

- To submit a fund project you must complete the Application which requires the following information:
 - a. Name of entity proposing the project
 - b. Contact details of proposing entity
 - c. Nature of Project - examples
 - Public voice
 - Internet
 - Telecom service to persons with disabilities
 - other



SUBMISSION OF FUND PROJECTS

- Information needed to complete the application from continued:
- d. Summary of Project objectives
- e. Outline of Project proposals
- f. Target groups
- g. Expected Project inputs
- h. Estimates of Project costs and benefits.



EXAMPLE OF APPLICATION PROCESS – USF SAINT LUCIA

NTRC (Saint Lucia) Approved Form: Version 2.0



Application Form For Universal Service Fund Project

Under section 17 of the Telecommunications (Universal Service Fund) Regulations (120 of 2008)

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION

RAJANA GROUP OF COMPANIES BUILDING
P.O BOX GM 690
CASTRIES
BOIS D'ORANGE
GROS ISLET
SAINT LUCIA
TELEPHONE NUMBERS: 1 758 458-2035/452-6871
FAX NUMBER: 1758 453-2558
EMAIL: ntrc_slucandw.lc/ntrc@ntrcslu.lc
WEBSITE: WWW.NTRCSLU.LC

February 2019

Guidance Notes

- A copy of the completed application form should be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Universal Service Fund (USF) Project Proposal Application" addressed to National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, P.O Box GM 690, Rajana Building, Bois D'Orange, Gros Islet, Saint Lucia.
- Complete all sections of this application form.
- Please be advised that only one proposal can be made on an application form, each additional project proposal should be made on a separate application form.
- Please indicate which, if any information provided by the applicant in this application is confidential.
- Please provide original copies of all documentation.
- Please note that any word, phrase or expression used herein shall have the same meaning as it has in the Telecommunications Act 2000.



PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

- **Project selection process**
- Project proposals received are reviewed and appraised
- If a project is selected it will go through the procurement process
- A selected project will normally be awarded to service provider after a competitive bidding process

USF PROJECTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Saint Lucia – Pilot project to provide ICT equipment to

- Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association
 - Lady Gordon Opportunity Centre
 - Dunnottar School
 - Special Ed Unit- Min of Education
 - National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities
- Equipment & software provided included:
- Computers and other equipment, software including Jaws, Dragon Naturally speaking speech recognition, zoomtext screen magnification, AAA math, writing with symbols, speaking dynamically.



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS???

COMMENTS!!



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