



What is the FUSC on my phone bill?

This is the line item on your phone bill which funds telecommunications services and discounts to schools, libraries, rural health care providers, and low-income customers. In addition, this funding (also known as USF) provides cost recoveries to rural telecom providers such as InterBel. The USF program has been in place since 1934 and supports over 1300 telephone companies around the country.

Why am I charged for the FUSC Recovery Charge?

Section 254(d) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 states: "(d) TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER CONTRIBUTION: Every telecommunications carrier that provides interstate telecommunications services shall contribute, on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis, to the specific, predictable, and sufficient mechanisms established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to preserve and advance universal service funds (USF).

When did InterBel begin billing the FUSC to customers?

Starting July 1, 2015, InterBel began passing on the FUSC charge to our Internet customers. Prior to this date (over the last 15 years), InterBel had been paying this expense for each of our ISP customer accounts. Due to significant cost increases with our ISP service over the last few years, InterBel could no longer justify paying the FUSC. All other Internet providers we are familiar with have been charging the FUSC to their customers for years.

History on InterBel DSL pricing:

- **DECEMBER 2000:** InterBel first began offering SILVER DSL for \$59.95/month. The GOLD package was \$79.95/month.
- **DECEMBER 2003:** InterBel dropped the price on our SILVER package to \$39.95/month and the GOLD package to \$69.95.
- **JANUARY 2005:** InterBel began offering the 2-pick bundle options offering DSL with your choice of "two" picks: Caller ID, Voice Mail, savings on Long Distance or Cable TV if you lived in town. These services allowed a combined savings of \$8 to over \$10 per month as it relates to voice services and/or cable television.
- **JUNE 2011:** InterBel ended dial-up service and introduced VALUE DSL for \$19.95/month.
- **JUNE 2012:** InterBel began offering faster broadband package options for our Fiber to the Home (FTTH) customers and the Plus-10 package to all.
- **JULY 2015:** InterBel began passing on the FUSC charge, effectively becoming the first price increase of our DSL since we started offering the service.