

Certain surcharges, taxes, fees and other charges may be added to your monthly invoice, including the following, depending on where you are located.

Federal Communications Program Fees

Federal Universal Service Fund

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires Appia to contribute to the Federal Universal Service Fund (FUSF) based on revenue derived from certain services. The FUSF helps to make phone service affordable and available to all Americans, including consumers with low incomes; those living in areas where the cost of providing telephone service is high; public schools and libraries, and rural health care providers.

The FCC delegates the administration of the FUSF to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Each quarter, USAC announces and the FCC approves a "contribution factor." The contribution factor is a percentage of the total interstate/international end-user revenue that the carrier is responsible for contributing to the FUSF in order to sustain the FUSF System. Consistent with FCC regulations, Appia only bills FUSF charges in an amount equal to the quarterly contribution factor currently in effect.

Property Tax Allotment

Appia is required to pay property taxes in locations where its servers are hosted. These servers provide service to all of our customers. Appia recovers this expense through the Property Tax Allotment.

Tax and Surcharge Recovery

Appia incurs costs associated to administer and comply with various funds required by the Federal Communications Commission. These costs cannot be applied as a line item in a per-circuit/per-service charge. Therefore, Appia recovers them using a Tax and Surcharge Recovery Fee.

Federal Telecommunications Relay Services Fund

The Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) Fund was established by the FCC in 1993 to reimburse TRS providers for the cost of providing interstate TRS services. TRS services are telephone transmission services that provide hearing or speech challenged individuals with the ability to use a traditional telephone.

Under the FCC's rules, Appia must contribute a percentage of its interstate and international end-user telecommunications revenues to the TRS Fund. Appia may collect these fees from customers. The contribution percentage varies annually.

Local Number Portability Administration (LNPA)

Local Number Portability (LNP) is a customer's ability to keep existing phone numbers when switching to another service provider. Appia must provide LNP, as well as contribute to the FCC's LNPA program, designed to diffuse the costs of administering LNP. Appia pays a proportionate share of the LNP costs in each region in which it operates and has customers. This fee varies frequently by region.

North American Numbering Program

The North American Numbering Plan (NANP) is an integrated telephone numbering plan for the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) serving multiple countries including the United States and its territories. It is administered by the North American Numbering Plan Administration/

Under the FCC's rules, Appia must contribute to the costs of numbering administration. Contributions are based on a percentage of Appia's revenues from customers using international, intrastate and interstate services. The percentage varies annually.

Annual Regulatory Fee

Appia, as an interstate service provider, must pay an annual regulatory fee to the FCC. This fee varies annually.

State and Local Taxes

States, counties, cities, and special taxing districts may assess various taxes on Appia services and/or phone sales. These may include specific taxes on communications services, sales, use and excise taxes, gross receipts taxes, property taxes and others. Appia collects applicable taxes from customers and remits them to the taxing authorities.

State and Local E911/911 Fees

Some states and localities require Appia to collect a fee to help support state and local Enhanced 911 (E-911) Funds. These funds support state and local 911 services. These fees vary by state and locality. Appia collects these fees from customers and remits them to the various fund administrators.

State and Local Regulatory Fees

State USF

Appia may also be required to contribute to state universal service funds. The funds may be used to assist in providing universal service and to support a variety of other programs at the state level. Appia collects applicable charges from customers. These charges are permissible pass-through fees but are not taxes or charges mandated by the government.

State Telecommunications Relay Services Funds

Some states also require contributions to state Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) funds to offset the cost of providing local transmission services that provide hearing or speech challenged individuals with the ability to use a traditional telephone. Many states require Appia to collect this fee and remit it to the governing authority. Appia collects applicable fees from customers and remits them to the relevant authorities.