

UPDATE
May 5, 2026

FCC Proposes FY 2026 Regulatory Fees

Last week, the FCC released a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) seeking comment on its proposed regulatory fees for fiscal year 2026. Congress requires the FCC to annually collect regulatory fees to cover its operational costs, and the FCC sets the fees by calculating the proportion of the total number of FCC employees needed to regulate a particular service.

Proposed Regulatory Fees. The FCC has proposed the following regulatory fees:

- **2026 Cable/IPTV/DBS regulatory fee:** The FCC has proposed that all MVPDs that had subscribers as of December 31, 2025, pay \$1.60 per subscriber, a \$0.13 increase from 2025.
- **CARS licenses and permits:** The FCC has proposed that CARS facilities operating on October 1, 2025, pay \$2,075.00, even if the facility's license expired after October 1, 2025.
- **Interconnected VoIP regulatory fee:** The FCC proposes an ITSP fee of \$0.00560 for each dollar of interstate and international telecommunications revenue that a provider reports on its Form 499-A.

Filing Procedures and Window. Following adoption of its FY 2026 Fee Order (likely in August), the FCC will collect these fees during a subsequent filing window (likely in September). All licensees must use the [FCC CORES System](#), and review, create, update, or change the fees owed. Then, each licensee must choose a payment method – online payment with a credit or debit card, online payment from a bank account, or sending a wire transfer. Keep in mind, you will not receive an invoice for your Cable/IPTV regulatory fees. Rather, you must proactively file them on Form 159.

If you have any questions about regulatory fee payments, please contact Scott Friedman at (608) 469-3596 or sfriedman@cinnamonmueller.com.

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