

UPDATE
September 3, 2026

FCC Regulatory Fees Due September 24, 2026

Last week, the FCC released a [Report and Order](#) establishing its Fiscal Year 2026 regulatory fees. All licensees must pay their required annual regulatory fees by September 24, 2026. Payments received after the deadline will be assessed a 25% late payment penalty.

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.

Fee amounts. The FCC has set the following regulatory fees:

- **2025 Cable/IPTV/DBS regulatory fee:** All MVPDs, including cable systems, IPTV systems and DBS operators that had subscribers as of December 31, 2025, must pay \$1.60 per subscriber, a \$0.13 increase from 2025.
- **CARS licenses and permits:** CARS facilities operating on October 1, 2025, must pay \$1,955, even if the facility's license expired after October 1, 2025.
- **Interconnected VoIP regulatory fee:** \$0.0055 for each dollar of interstate and international telecommunications revenue that a provider reports on its Form 499-A.

De minimis exemption. Entities whose total regulatory fee liability, including all categories of fees for which payment is due, is \$1,000 or less are exempt from payment. Municipal providers and providers that qualify as non-profit entities are also exempt from regulatory fees.

If you have any questions about the payment of FY 2026 regulatory fees, please contact Scott Friedman at (608) 469-3596 or sfriedman@cinnamonmueller.com.

EEO Form 396-C Due September 30, 2026

Multichannel video programming distributors (“MVPDs”), including cable operators, must submit Form 396-C, the FCC’s MVPD Equal Employment Opportunity (“EEO”) Program Annual Report, by midnight on September 30, 2026. To file Form 396-C, login to the Media Bureau’s COALS Electronic Filing System via <https://fccprod.servicenowservices.com/coals>.

MVPDs that have been [randomly selected](#) to file a Supplemental Investigation Sheet (“SIS”) along with their Form 396-C were listed in the Enforcement Bureau’s Public Notice earlier this summer and must complete the following:

- Include one job description for employees in the “Technicians” category in Part I of the form.
- Answer questions 4, 5 and 6 in Part II of the form:
 - Explain the employment unit’s efforts to promote in a nondiscriminatory manner to positions of greater responsibility.
 - Describe the employment unit's efforts to encourage entrepreneurs to conduct business in a nondiscriminatory manner with all parts of its operation and provide an analysis of the results of those efforts.
 - Report the findings of the employment unit’s analysis of its efforts to recruit, hire, promote in a nondiscriminatory manner and explain any difficulties encountered in implementing its EEO program.
- Attach, as Part III, a copy of the unit’s EEO public file report created in 2026 covering the previous 12 months.

Form 396-C is submitted on an employment unit basis. Employment units with six or more full-time employees must submit Form 396-C annually. Employment units with less than six full-time employees have more limited filing obligations.

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

Please visit our website at www.cinnamonmueller.com to learn more about our lawyers and practice. You can reach Cinnamon Mueller at (314) 462-9000. *This update is provided by the law firm of Cinnamon Mueller. The document is intended for informational purposes only as a service to clients of Cinnamon Mueller. It is not intended to provide specific legal advice or to substitute obtaining appropriate legal counsel. We encourage you to consult with counsel to address special compliance issues and for assistance in negotiating or handling any such matter referred to in the update.*