



UNIVERSAL SERVICES IN THE BAHAMAS & COMPARATIVE JURISDICTIONS

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Universal Services – Core Principles

- **Availability**
- **Accessibility**
- **Affordability**



Universal Services Policies in the Caribbean

- **Legislation**
- **Regulatory Framework**
- **Government Initiatives**



Legislation

- Sets out the goals and objectives of the universal service policies
- Specifies which services have been designated universal services
- Sets the criteria for or designates the universal services providers
- Funding mechanisms to be employed
- Describes the costing structure to be used



Regulatory Framework

- Reiterates those services which are to be deemed universal services
- Sets out the designation of USPs
- Sets out the manner in which universal services are to be provided
- Costing model for universal services
- Model for contributions to the USF
- Quality of service requirements



Government Initiatives

- Broadband initiatives in underserved communities
- Laptop programs for students
- Basic television services to remote communities
- Affordable internet access
- Community access centers
- E-government initiatives



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Telecom Services = USOs

- Public Fixed Voice
- Access to Emergency numbers
- Access to Directory Inquiries
- Internet Access
- Basic TV services
- Telecoms services to schools, hospitals, similar institutions, disabled and physically challenged



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Benchmarked Countries

- Barbados
- Jamaica
- ECTEL
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Anguilla
- Cayman Islands
- British Virgin Islands
- Bahamas



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OBLIGATIONS





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Fixed Voice

- Barbados
- Jamaica
- ECTEL
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Anguilla
- Cayman Islands
- British Virgin Islands
- Bahamas





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Public Payphones

- Barbados
- Jamaica
- Anguilla
- Bahamas





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Internet Access

- Jamaica (educational access)
- ECTEL
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Cayman Islands
- Bahamas





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Free Emergency Access

- Barbados
- Jamaica
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Cayman Islands
- British Virgin Islands





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Directory Assistance

- Barbados
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Anguilla
- Cayman Islands
- British Virgin Islands





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Funding

- Operator contributions
- Government grants
- International grants
- Access levy on international inbound traffic



Plan for the future

- Systematic focus on broadband initiatives
- Non-traditional and alternative funding mechanisms
- Better working relationships between governments, regulators and operators
- Sharing of technologies, resources, training and experiences amongst Caribbean territories



Thank You

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