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National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC)

Universal Service

(increasing accessibility and affordability for all)

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Universal Service is the provision of baseline services to the population of a country at affordable prices.

In telecommunications, Universal Service refers to the provision of:

- voice telephony
- internet access
- telecommunications services to schools, hospitals and other public institutions
- other services by which people access efficient and affordable modern telecommunications network



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Establishing Universal Service Fund

Universal Service Fund was established pursuant to section 43 of the *Telecommunications Act 31 of 2000* “There shall be established a Fund to be known as the **Universal Service Fund**, which shall be managed by the commission in accordance with Telecommunications (universal service fund) Regulations 2009”.



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Universal Service Fund

This is a Fund established to support the expansion of universal service to priority areas



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Universal Service Fund Contributions:-

- Contributions by telecommunications providers
- Any funds that may be directly appropriated by parliament for purposes of the fund
- Official grants, donations, bequests or other contributions or transfers granted by an individual or other legal entity



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GOAL

The Goal of Universal Service:-

Support the provision of Universal Service in telecommunications to areas and to user groups that do not have access to these services.

Universal Service attempts to equalize the social opportunities by guaranteeing access to people who cannot afford the service.



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Benefits of Universal Service:-

Encourage efficient access to and use of telecommunication networks and services throughout Grenada, with special focus on rural, underserved and maritime areas

Encourage the reasonable availability and affordability of basic and advanced telecommunication services, particularly where commercial telecommunications market may be unable to deliver such services in a financially viable manner independently

Provide support for the introduction and expansion of telecommunications to schools, health facilities and other organizations serving the public needs

Promote technological innovation in the public sector



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Telecommunications Regulations

Telecommunications Act 31 of 2000

Telecommunications (Universal Service Fund) Regulation
SRO 21 2009

Telecommunications (Universal Service Fund Contribution)
Order SRO 20 2009

Telecommunications Universal Service Guidelines 2009



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Status of Universal Service

Universal Service in Grenada is still in its introductory phases

The telecommunications act 31 of 2000 made provisions for establishment of Universal Service in Grenada as well as the contracting states.

Universal Service Launched:-

St. Vincent

Pending:-

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Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Kitts



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Overall Goal / Target:-

To ensure that 100% of the population has access to designated services

Penetration (2008):-

Internet –	8.20%
Fixed line -	26.9%
Mobile -	89.7%



Thank You

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and updates)**

www.ntrc.gd