

310(b) petitions or petitions) related to common carrier wireless, aeronautical en route, and aeronautical fixed radio station licenses (collectively, wireless common carrier licenses) and to incorporate the new requirements.

First, the 2020 Executive Branch Review Order and the 2021 Executive Branch Standard Questions Order create new requirements associated with certain applications, including section 310(b) petitions that will be reviewed by the relevant Executive Branch agencies for national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, and trade policy issues as well as other changes.

In the 2020 Executive Branch Review Order, the Commission adopted rules and procedures to facilitate a more streamlined and transparent review process for coordinating applications with the Executive Branch agencies. The Commission also established firm time frames for the Executive Branch agencies to complete their review consistent with Executive Order 13913, which established the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector (the Committee). Specifically, under the new rules, the Committee has 120 days for initial review, plus an additional 90 days for secondary assessment if the Committee determines that the risk to national security or law enforcement interests cannot be mitigated with standard mitigation measures. The Commission also adopted and codified five categories of information for which applicants must provide detailed and comprehensive information to the Committee.

Second, in the 2021 Executive Branch Standards Questions Order, the Commission adopted the Standard Questions—a baseline set of national security and law enforcement questions covering the five categories of information described above. The responses to the Standard Questions will replace the information that petitioners currently provide to the Committee on an individualized basis. The Standard Questions consist of six separate questionnaires (based on subject matter) and a supplement for the provision of personally identifiable information (PII). Petitioners will be required to submit their responses to the Standard Questions and a copy of the section 310(b) petition, directly with the Committee. Broadcast petitioners will be required to answer Standard Questions specific to broadcast licensees and common carrier wireless petitioners will be required to answer Standard Questions specific to common carrier licenses as well as a general PII

supplement applicable to all respondents to the Standard Questions.

Finally, the Commission is in the process of modernizing ICFS (ICFS Modernization). Common carrier wireless section 310(b) petitions are filed through ICFS while broadcast section 310(b) petitions are filed through the Media Bureau's Licensing and Management System (LMS) when submitted with a broadcast construction permit, assignment, or transfer of control application. The ICFS Modernization includes developing forms for the submission of petitions related to common carrier wireless licenses to improve the Commission's information collection and comply with the new requirements. Until the new ICFS forms are approved, common carrier wireless section 310(b) petitioners will be required to provide the information required by the 2020 Executive Branch Review Order and the 2021 Executive Branch Standard Questions Order by filing current petitions and filing separate documents into ICFS to comply with the rules. We estimate that the projected completion date for the modernized ICFS, including all forms related to common carrier wireless section 310(b) petitions, will be July 2024.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Marlene Dortch,**

*Secretary, Office of the Secretary.*

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[FR ID: 211950]

### Privacy Act of 1974; Matching Program

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of a new matching program.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended ("Privacy Act"), this document announces a new computer matching program the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission" or "Agency") and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) will conduct with the Connecticut Department of Social Services. The purpose of this matching program is to verify the eligibility of applicants to and subscribers of Lifeline, and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), both of which are administered by USAC under the direction of the FCC. More information about these programs

is provided in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

**DATES:** Written comments are due on or before May 2, 2024. This computer matching program will commence on May 2, 2024, and will conclude 18 months after the effective date.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Elliot S. Tarloff, FCC, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554, or to *Privacy@fcc.gov*.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elliot S. Tarloff at 202-418-0886 or *Privacy@fcc.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Lifeline program provides support for discounted broadband and voice services to low-income consumers. Lifeline is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under FCC direction. Consumers qualify for Lifeline through proof of income or participation in a qualifying program, such as Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Federal Public Housing Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit, or various Tribal-specific federal assistance programs.

In the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260, 134 Stat. 1182, 2129-36 (2020), Congress created the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, and directed use of the National Verifier to determine eligibility based on various criteria, including the qualifications for Lifeline (Medicaid, SNAP, etc.). EBBP provided \$3.2 billion in monthly consumer discounts for broadband service and one-time provider reimbursement for a connected device (laptop, desktop computer or tablet). In the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429, 1238-44 (2021) (codified at 47 U.S.C. 1751-52), Congress modified and extended EBBP, provided an additional \$14.2 billion, and renamed it the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). A household may qualify for the ACP benefit under various criteria, including an individual qualifying for the FCC's Lifeline program.

In a Report and Order adopted on March 31, 2016, (81 FR 33026, May 24, 2016) (*2016 Lifeline Modernization Order*), the Commission ordered USAC to create a National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier ("National Verifier"), including the National Lifeline Eligibility Database (LED), that would match data about Lifeline applicants and subscribers with other data sources to verify the eligibility of an applicant or subscriber. The Commission found that the National Verifier would reduce

compliance costs for Lifeline service providers, improve service for Lifeline subscribers, and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the program.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 directs the FCC to leverage the National Verifier to verify applicants' eligibility for ACP. The purpose of this matching program is to verify the eligibility of Lifeline and ACP applicants and subscribers by determining whether they receive SNAP benefits administered by the Connecticut Department of Social Services.

#### Participating Agencies

Connecticut Department of Social Services (source agency); Federal Communications Commission (recipient agency) and Universal Service Administrative Company.

#### Authority for Conducting the Matching Program

The authority to conduct the matching program for the FCC's ACP is 47 U.S.C. 1752(a)–(b). The authority to conduct the matching program for the FCC's Lifeline program is 47 U.S.C. 254(a)–(c), (j).

#### Purpose(s)

The purpose of this new matching agreement is to verify the eligibility of applicants and subscribers to Lifeline, as well as to ACP and other Federal programs that use qualification for Lifeline as an eligibility criterion. This new agreement will permit eligibility verification for the Lifeline program and ACP by checking an applicant's/ subscriber's participation in SNAP in Connecticut. Under FCC rules, consumers receiving these benefits qualify for Lifeline discounts and also for ACP benefits.

#### Categories of Individuals

The categories of individuals whose information is involved in the matching program include, but are not limited to, those individuals who have applied for Lifeline and/or ACP benefits; are currently receiving Lifeline and/or ACP benefits; are individuals who enable another individual in their household to qualify for Lifeline and/or ACP benefits; are minors whose status qualifies a parent or guardian for Lifeline and/or ACP benefits; or are individuals who have received Lifeline and/or ACP benefits.

#### Categories of Records

The categories of records involved in the matching program include the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security Number, date of birth, and first

and last name. The National Verifier will transfer these data elements to the Connecticut Department of Social Services which will respond either "yes" or "no" that the individual is enrolled in a qualifying assistance program: SNAP administered by the Connecticut Department of Social Services.

#### System(s) of Records

The records shared as part of this matching program reside in the Lifeline system of records, FCC/WCB–1, Lifeline, which was published in the **Federal Register** at 86 FR 11526 (Feb. 25, 2021).

The records shared as part of this matching program reside in the ACP system of records, FCC/WCB–3, Affordable Connectivity Program, which was published in the **Federal Register** at 86 FR 71494 (Dec. 16, 2021).

Federal Communications Commission.

**Katura Jackson,**

*Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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#### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[OMB 3060–0819; FR ID 211757]

#### Information Collection Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or the Commission) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Comments are requested concerning: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and ways to further reduce the information

collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.

**DATES:** Written PRA comments should be submitted on or before June 3, 2024. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all PRA comments to Nicole Ongele, FCC, via email [PRA@fcc.gov](mailto:PRA@fcc.gov) and to [nicole.ongele@fcc.gov](mailto:nicole.ongele@fcc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information about the information collection, contact Nicole Ongele, (202) 418–2991.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

*OMB Control Number:* 3060–0819.

*Title:* Bridging the Digital Divide for Low-Income Consumers, Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support.

*Form No.:* FCC Form 481, 497, 555, 5629, 5630, and 5631.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents:* Individuals or households and business or other for-profit enterprises.

*Number of Respondents and Responses:* 25,110,068 respondents; 26,877,412 responses.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 0.0167–125 hours.

*Frequency of Response:* Annual, biennial, monthly, daily and on occasion reporting requirements, recordkeeping requirement and third-party disclosure requirement.

*Obligation to Respond:* Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority is contained in Sections 1, 4(i), 5, 201, 205, 214, 219, 220, 254, 303(r), and 403 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and section 706 of the Communications Act of 1996, as amended; 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 155, 201, 205, 214, 219, 220, 254, 303(r), 403, and 1302.

*Total Annual Burden:* 6,534,382 hours.

*Total Annual Cost:* \$937,500.

*Needs and Uses:* The Commission provides updates to the existing FCC Form 5629 to implement the Safe Connections Act Order, FCC 23–96, to include information for survivors