

# CHARTER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION'S COMMUNICATIONS EQUITY AND DIVERSITY COUNCIL

## 1. The Committee's Official Designation

The official designation of this federal advisory committee is the “**Communications Equity and Diversity Council**” (hereinafter the Committee).

## 2. Authority

The Committee is hereby authorized at the direction of the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission (hereinafter the Commission) and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. 2.

## 3. The Committee's Objective and Scope of its Activities

The mission of the Committee is to make recommendations to the Commission on advancing equity in the provision of and access to digital communication services and products for all people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex or disability. It shall provide recommendations to the Commission on how to empower people of color and others who have been historically underserved, including persons who live in rural areas, and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality, to access, leverage, and benefit from the wide range of opportunities made possible by technology, communication services and next-generation networks.

In carrying out this mission, the Committee will make recommendations to the Commission on how to accelerate the deployment of high-speed Internet access, or “broadband,” in all communities by reducing and/or removing regulatory barriers to infrastructure and investment, and by making recommendations on how to strengthen existing broadband networks and develop new ones. This Committee is intended to provide an effective means for stakeholders to exchange ideas and develop recommendations on broadband deployment and digital redlining, which will in turn enhance the Commission's ability to carry out its statutory responsibilities regarding broadband deployment.

The Committee will also make recommendations to the Commission on how to accelerate the entry of small businesses, including those owned by women and minorities, into the media, digital news and information, and audio and video programming industries, including as owners, suppliers, and employees.

This Committee is intended to provide an effective means for stakeholders to exchange ideas and develop recommendations to the Commission on access to capital, small business mentoring, upskilling for employment in media and technology industries, media ownership diversity, and procurement opportunities. In doing this, the Committee will also evaluate methods to facilitate the incubation and participation of small, diverse businesses in the provision of communications products and services to all communities. Those small businesses should include those owned by people of color, women, veterans, and persons with disabilities. This mission will facilitate the Commission's goals of enhancing equitable access to digital technologies, particularly to communities that are underserved, lower-resourced or subject to persistent poverty or inequality. The Committee's work is also intended to enhance the Commission's ability to advance equity and diversity in the communications industry and carry out its

statutory responsibility to promote policies favoring diversity of media voices, localism, vigorous economic competition, technological advancement, and promotion of the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

#### 4. Description of Duties

The duties of the Committee will be to provide recommendations to the Commission on ways to advance equity for all in the provision of and access to communications services and products and ensure that disadvantaged communities are not denied the wide range of opportunities made possible by technology, communication services and next-generation networks. The duties shall include the development of recommendations, based on tasks assigned to it by the Commission, so that the Committee can carry out its mission as described above. In formulating its recommendations, the Committee shall gather and develop data, examine industry trends and practices, and consider both industry-based solutions, as well as targeted regulatory or legislative solutions, to respond to the challenges identified by the Committee.

#### 5. Official to Whom the Committee Reports

The Committee shall report to the Chair of the Commission. The Chair of the Commission shall appoint the members of the Committee, including the Chair of the Committee.

#### 6. Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support

The Commission will provide the facilities and support staff necessary to conduct meetings of the Committee. Private sector members of the Committee will serve without any government compensation and will not be entitled to travel expenses or per diem subsistence allowances.

#### 7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs in Dollars and Staff Years

Annual operating costs associated with supporting the Committee's functions are estimated to be \$408,000, which includes Commission staff time equivalent to 2 FTEs.

#### 8. Designated Federal Officer

A full-time or permanent part-time employee, appointed by the Chair of the Commission, will serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO will approve or call all the Committee and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Chair of the Commission.

#### 9. Committee Meetings

The Committee shall meet approximately three (3) times a year. Meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public and timely notice of each meeting shall be published in the Federal Register and shall be further publicized through other appropriate vehicles.

#### 10. Subcommittees

The Committee may, with agency approval, work through informal subcommittees, or other subgroups of the Committee, which shall report their activities to the Committee as a whole. It is anticipated that the work of subcommittees will be conducted primarily through telephone calls, e-mail correspondence,

and e-mail discussion lists. Recommendations of subcommittees must be reported to the Committee as a whole, and only as modified or ratified by the Committee may such recommendations be reported to the Chair of the Commission.

#### 11. Duration

The term of the Committee shall be two years, but the Committee shall be terminated earlier if its work is completed before the end of its term.

#### 12. Termination

The Committee shall terminate two years from the date of this Charter, unless renewed for an additional term prior to the termination date.

#### 13. Membership

Members of the Committee are appointed by the Chair of the Commission in consultation with appropriate Commission staff. The Committee will consist of approximately 30-35 members who will be appointed either as Representatives or as Special Government Employees (SGEs) as necessary.

Members will be selected to balance the expertise and viewpoints that are necessary to effectively address the issues to be considered by the Committee. Members will reflect a wide variety of interests, including those of people of color, women, consumers, civil rights, public interest, and industry, and should be prepared to serve a two-year term and participate regularly in the deliberations of at least one subcommittee.

#### 14. Recordkeeping

Records of the proceedings will be kept, as required by applicable laws and regulations. All records of the Committee, its subcommittees, and any other subgroups of the Committee, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Item 6.2, or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

#### 15. Filing Date

JUNE 29, 2021