

**RENEWAL OF COMPUTER MATCHING AGREEMENT BETWEEN
DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS,
UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY,
AND
THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

Verification of Eligibility of Lifeline Program and Affordable Connectivity Program Subscribers

The Privacy Act of 1974, as amended by the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, provides that a matching agreement shall remain in effect only for such period, not to exceed eighteen (18) months, as the Data Integrity Board of the agency determines is appropriate.

Within three (3) months prior to the expiration of such an agreement, the Data Integrity Board of the agency may, without additional review, renew the matching agreement for a current, ongoing matching program for not more than one (1) year if: (i) such program will be conducted without any change; and (ii) each party to the agreement certifies to the board in writing that the program has been conducted in compliance with the agreement. 5 U.S.C. § 552a(o)(2)(D).

The following meets the conditions for renewal.

I. TITLE OF THE MATCHING PROGRAM: Lifeline and Other Federal Connectivity Benefit Programs Computer Matching Agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs

II. RECIPIENT AGENCIES: Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)

III. SOURCE AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

IV. PURPOSE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE MATCHING PROGRAM

The purpose of this matching agreement is to provide the FCC's Lifeline program and Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), as administered by USAC, with information about whether an individual participates in VA's Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefits. Since participation in such program makes individuals eligible for the Lifeline program, 47 C.F.R. § 54.409(a)(2), and/or the ACP, 47 C.F.R. § 54.1800(j), the automated matching undertaken through this agreement is a cost-effective and efficient way to verify that an individual may receive the benefits of these programs.

Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the FCC to establish federal universal support mechanisms, including the Lifeline program for low-income consumers. 47 U.S.C. § 254(b). The FCC has appointed USAC as the permanent Administrator of the federal Universal Service Fund support mechanisms, including the Lifeline program. 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.701-717. Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260, 134 Stat. 1182, as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58, 135 Stat. 429, and pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the FCC and USAC, USAC administers the ACP. See 47 U.S.C. § 1752(i)(5).

VA is responsible for the oversight and supervision of Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefits under Section 306: 38 C.F.R. § 3.1(u), Pub. L. No. 86-211; 73 Stat. 432; **Old Law**: 38 C.F.R. § 3.1(v), Pub. L. No. 86-211; 73 Stat. 432; and **Improved Pension**: 38 C.F.R. § 3.1(w), Pub. L. No. 95-588; 92 Stat. 2497. VA maintains the case records and confidential personally identifiable information (PII) of individual applicants and recipients for Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefits.

V. EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF THE MATCHING AGREEMENT

The current effective period of the matching agreement is November 6, 2022 through May 5, 2024.

VI. EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF THE RENEWAL OF THE MATCHING AGREEMENT

Upon execution of the certification by the parties and approval of the Data Integrity Board of the Federal Communications Commission, the effective period is renewed for the period of May 6, 2024 through May 5, 2025.

VII. AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As designated representatives of the agencies participating in the matching program, we certify that: (i) the matching program will be conducted without change; and (ii) the matching program has been conducted in compliance with the current agreement.

A. Source Agency

NILIJAH CARTER Digitally signed by NILIJAH CARTER
Date: 2024.03.13 13:42:46 -04'00'

Dr. Nilijah E. Carter
Executive Director
Pension & Fiduciary Service
Veterans Benefits Administration

Date

B. Recipient Agencies



Tim O'Brien
Vice President, Lifeline
Universal Service Administrative Company

5/1/24

Date

Mark Stephens
Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission

Date

VIII. DATA INTEGRITY BOARD APPROVAL

On behalf of the Data Integrity Board of the Federal Communications Commission, respectfully, I approve the renewal of the current agreement.

Elliot S. Tarloff
Chairperson, Data Integrity Board
Federal Communications Commission

Date

On behalf of the Data Integrity Board of the Department of Veterans Affairs, respectfully, I approve the renewal of the current agreement.

JOHN OSWALT JOHN OSWALT
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John Oswalt
Chairman, Data Integrity Board
Department of Veterans Affairs

Date