

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2021-05425 Filed 3-15-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[FR ID: 17565]

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 the modification of a computer matching program the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission” or “Agency”) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) will conduct with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration Division of Family Resources (FSSA/DFR) (“Agency”). The purpose of this matching program is to verify the eligibility of applicants to and subscribers of Lifeline (existing purpose) and the new Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, 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 April 15, 2021. This computer matching program will commence on April 15, 2021, and will conclude 18 months after the effective date.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Margaret Drake, FCC, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554, or to Privacy@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margaret Drake at 202-418-1707 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.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP) was established by Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, Public Law 116-260, 134 Stat. 1182. EBBP is a program that will help low-income Americans obtain discounted broadband service and one-time co-pay for a connected device (laptop, desktop computer or tablet). This program was created specifically to assist American families’ access to broadband, which has proven to be essential for work, school, and healthcare during the public health emergency that exists as a result of COVID-19. A household may qualify for the EBBP 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)), 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 EBBP. The purpose of this matching program is to verify the eligibility of EBBP applicants and subscribers by determining whether they receive Medicaid or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits administered by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration Division of Family Resources. Under FCC rules, consumers receiving these benefits qualify for Lifeline discounts and also for EBBP benefits.

Participating Non-Federal Agencies

Indiana Family and Social Services Administration Division of Family Resources.

Authority for Conducting the Matching Program

The authority for the FCC’s EBBP is Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, Public Law 116-260, 134 Stat. 1182; 47 CFR part 54, subpart P. The authority for the FCC’s Lifeline program is 47 U.S.C. 254; 47 CFR part 54, subpart E; Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, *et al.*, Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and

Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962, 4006-21, paras. 126-66 (2016) 81 FR 33026 (May 24, 2016) (*2016 Lifeline Modernization Order*).

Purpose(s)

In the 2016 Lifeline Modernization Order, the FCC required USAC to develop and operate the National Verifier to improve efficiency and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the Lifeline program. The stated purpose of the National Verifier is “to increase the integrity and improve the performance of the Lifeline program for the benefit of a variety of Lifeline participants, including Lifeline providers, subscribers, states, community-based organizations, USAC, and the Commission.” 31 FCC Rcd 3962, 4006, para. 126. To help determine whether Lifeline applicants and subscribers are eligible for Lifeline benefits, the Order contemplates that the USAC-operated LED will communicate with information systems and databases operated by other Federal and State agencies. Id. at 4011-2, paras. 135-7. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 directs the FCC to leverage the National Verifier to verify applicants’ eligibility for EBBP.

The purpose of this modified matching agreement is to verify the eligibility of applicants and subscribers to Lifeline (existing purpose), as well as to the new EBBP and to other Federal programs that use qualification for Lifeline as an eligibility criterion. This new agreement would replace the existing agreement with Indiana, which permits matching only for the Lifeline program by checking an applicant’s/ subscriber’s participation in SNAP and Medicaid. Under FCC rules, consumers receiving these benefits qualify for Lifeline discounts and also for EBBP 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 EBBP benefits; are currently receiving Lifeline and/or EBBP benefits; are individuals who enable another individual in their household to qualify for Lifeline and/or EBBP benefits; are minors whose status qualifies a parent or guardian for Lifeline and/or EBBP benefits; or are individuals who have received Lifeline and/or EBBP benefits.

Categories of Records

The categories of records involved in the matching program include, but are not limited to, the last four digits of the applicant’s Social Security Number,

date of birth, first name, and last name. The National Verifier will transfer these data elements to the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration Division of Family Resources which will respond either “yes” or “no” that the individual is enrolled in a qualifying assistance program: Indiana Family and Social Services Administration Division of Family Resources, SNAP or Medicaid.

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 EBBP system of records, FCC/WCB-3, Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, which was published in the **Federal Register** at 86 FR 11523 (Feb. 25, 2021).

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[FR Doc. 2021-05423 Filed 3-15-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Submission for OMB Review; Annual Statistical Report on Children in Foster Homes and Children in Families Receiving Payment in Excess of the Poverty Income Level From a State Program Funded Under Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act (OMB #0970-0004)

AGENCY: Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, HHS.

ACTION: Request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Office of Family Assistance (OFA), Administration for Children and Families, is requesting a 3-year extension of the form ACF-4125: Annual Report on Children in Foster Homes and Children in Families Receiving Payment in Excess of the Poverty Income Level from a State Program Funded Under Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act (OMB #0970-0004, expiration 3/21/2021). There are no changes requested to the form.

DATES: *Comments due within 30 days of publication.* OMB must make a decision about the collection of information between 30 and 60 days after publication of this document in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, a comment is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), section 1124 of Title I, as amended by Public Law 114-95, requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to determine the number of children aged 5 to 17, inclusive, that (1) are being supported in foster homes with public funds; or (2) are from families receiving assistance payments in excess of the current poverty income level for a family of four. The information gathered is to be passed on to the Secretary of Education for purposes of allocating grants authorized under this law. The statute requires that the formula to allocate these grants and distribute funds be based, in part, on October caseload data on the number of children in foster care or in families receiving payments from state programs funded under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families]. The purpose of this annual survey is to provide annually updated data so that funds may be allocated in accordance with the ESEA.

Respondents: State agencies (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) administering child welfare and public assistance programs.

ANNUAL BURDEN ESTIMATES

Instrument	Total number of respondents	Annual number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden hours
Annual Report on Children in Foster Homes and Children Receiving Payments	52	1	264.35	13,746.20

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 13,746.20.

Authority: Pub. L. 107-110 Sec. 1124(c)(4) and Pub. L. 104-193 Sec. 110(j).

Mary B. Jones,

ACF/OPRE Certifying Officer.

[FR Doc. 2021-05413 Filed 3-15-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4184-36-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Submission for OMB Review; Community-Based Family Resource and Support Grants (Name Changed to Child Abuse Prevention Program—OIS Notified 6/2007) (OMB No.: 0970-0155)

AGENCY: Children’s Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, HHS.

ACTION: Request for Public Comment.

SUMMARY: The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is requesting a 3-year extension of the Program Instruction (PI) for the Community-Based Family Resource and Support Grants or the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program (OMB No.: 0970-0155, expiration 3/31/2021), which outlines information collection requirements pursuant to receiving a grant award. There are no changes requested to the information collection process.