

Federal Communications Commission **2019 Matching Activities Review and Report**

Pursuant to section 14 of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular No. A-108, “Federal Agency Responsibilities for Review, Reporting, and Publication under the Privacy Act,” the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or “the Commission”) submits this report on the computer matching programs in which it participated during 2019.

I. Data Integrity Board Members

Mark Stephens, Managing Director
David Hunt, Inspector General
Thomas Johnson, General Counsel
Francisco Salguero, Chief Information Officer, OMD¹
Jennifer Bilbrey, Deputy CIO, Management and Lifecycle, OMD²
Mike Luong, Acting Chief Information Security Officer, OMD³
Jae Seong, Chief Financial Officer, OMD⁴
Thomas Green, Chief Human Capital Officer, OMD
MaryKay Mitchell, Chief Administrative Officer, OMD
Mary Moore, Manager, Security Operations Center, OMD⁵
Margaret Drake, Senior Agency Official for Privacy (SAOP), OGC⁶

II. Data Integrity Board Secretary

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III. Matching Programs

¹ Ms. Christine Calvosa was appointed the FCC’s CIO in March 2019 and held that position until May 2019 when she left the FCC. Mr. John Skudlarek was appointed FCC’s Acting CIO in May 2019 and held that position until December 2019 when Mr. Francisco Salguero was appointed the FCC’s CIO.

² Upon Ms. Calvosa’s departure, Mr. Skudlarek was appointed the FCC’s Acting CIO in May 2019, which he held until Mr. Salguero’s appointment as the FCC’s CIO in December 2019. Mr. Skudlarek returned to the position of Deputy CIO, Management, which he held until he left the FCC in April 2020. Ms. Jennifer Bilbrey was appointed D/CIO for the renamed Management and Lifecycle in May 2020.

³ Mr. Leo Wong left the FCC in April 2020, and Mr. Mike Leong was appointed the FCC’s Acting CISO.

⁴ Ms. Kathleen Heurer left the FCC in June 2019, and Mr. Jae Seong was appointed the FCC’s CFO in September 2019.

⁵ Ms. Mary Moore has had a name change, she was previously Ms. Mary Harmon.

⁶ Mr. John Williams left the FCC in November 2019, and Mr. Michael J. Carlson was appointed the FCC’s Acting SAOP. Ms. Drake was appointed the FCC’s SAOP in April 2020.

The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-503) requires the Data Integrity Board (DIB) of each Federal agency to review its matching activities on a yearly basis. 5 U.S.C. § 552a (u)(3)(D). In conducting this review of the FCC’s activities, the DIB took action in 2019 to enter into six new, four extended, and one re-established⁷ computer matching agreements (“CMAs”) in which the FCC acted as the “recipient agency,” as that term is defined in 5 U.S.C. § 552a (a)(9). At the close of 2019, the FCC was engaged in a total of 18 matching programs. These activities are discussed below.

In a Report and Order adopted on March 31, 2016, the Commission ordered the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to create a National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier that would match data about Lifeline program applicants and subscribers with other data sources to verify the eligibility of an applicant or subscriber. *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization Order et al.*, Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962 (2016).

The Lifeline program provides support for discounted broadband and voice services to low-income consumers. 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, or Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit.

In 2019, the FCC’s Data Integrity Board (DIB) reviewed and approved six new CMAs, four 12-month extensions of current CMAs, and the reestablishment of one CMA in which the FCC and USAC compared Lifeline program subscriber lists against lists of persons enrolled in qualifying programs, as follows:

1. On March 19, 2019, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider CMAs between the FCC, USAC, and two non-Federal agencies:
 - Georgia Department of Human Services, Department of Children and Family Services (DHS) and the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) (SNAP); and
 - Iowa Department of Human Services (SNAP).

The DIB approved these agreements unanimously on March 25, 2019, which compared Lifeline program subscriber data against enrollment information in databases maintained by these two non-Federal agencies. *See* 84 Fed. Reg. 55952 (May 24, 2019). In its review of these agreements, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs. The FCC records matched in these agreements are part of the FCC/WCB-1, Lifeline Program system of records. *See* 82 Fed. Reg. 38686 (Aug. 15, 2017).

2. On April 18-19, 2019, the DIB approved unanimously (via circulation and the SAOP’s recommendation) the 12-month extension of the CMAs between the FCC, USAC, and four non-Federal agencies, which were initially approved on July 27, 2017:
 - Colorado Governor’s Office of Information Technology (SNAP and Medicaid);
 - Mississippi Department of Human Services (SNAP);

⁷ The reestablishment of the FCC – HUD computer matching agreement was not finalized until the publication of the notice in the *Federal Register* on February 14, 2020 (85 Fed. Reg. 8588).

- New Mexico Human Services Department (SNAP and Medicaid); and
- Utah Department of Workforce Services (SNAP and Medicaid).

These agreements compare Lifeline program subscriber data against enrollment information in the databases maintained by the four state agencies. *See* 82 Fed. Reg. 46989 (Oct. 10, 2017). The FCC records matched in these agreements are part of the FCC/WCB-1, Lifeline Program system of records. *See* 82 Fed. Reg. 38686 (Aug. 15, 2017).

3. On May 23, 2019, the DIB met to consider the CMA between the FCC and one Federal agency:
 - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Transformed - Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS), System No. 09-07-0541.

At this meeting the DIB approved this agreement unanimously, which verifies Lifeline eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in the Medicaid program. *See* 84 Fed. Reg. 36600 (July 29, 2019). In its review of this agreement, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs. The FCC records matched in this agreement are part of the FCC/WCB-1, Lifeline Program, system of records. *See* 82 Fed. Reg. 38686 (Aug. 15, 2017).

4. On August 21, 2019, DIB met to consider CMAs between the FCC, USAC, and three non-Federal agencies:
 - South Carolina Department of Social Services (SNAP);
 - Virginia Department of Social Services (SNAP and Medicaid); and
 - Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration (SNAP and Medicaid).

At this meeting, the DIB approved these agreements unanimously, which compared Lifeline program subscriber data against enrollment information contained in databases maintained by these three non-Federal agencies. *See* 84 Fed. Reg. 55952 (October 18, 2019). In its review of these agreements, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs. The FCC records matched in these agreements are part of the FCC/WCB-1, Lifeline Program, system of records. *See* 82 Fed. Reg. 38686 (Aug. 15, 2017).

5. On November 26, 2019, the DIB met to consider the re-establishment of the CMA between the FCC and one Federal agency:
 - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – HUD Inventory Management System/PIH Information Center (IMS/PIC).

At this meeting the DIB approved this agreement unanimously, which compares Lifeline program subscriber data against enrollment information contained in a database maintained by this Federal agency. *See* 85 Fed. Reg. 8588 (Feb. 14, 2020). In its review of this agreement, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs. The FCC records matched in this agreement are part of the FCC/WCB-1 system of records. *See* 82 Fed. Reg. 38686 (Aug. 15, 2017).

Copies of the FCC's CMAs that are currently operating can be found at:
<https://www.fcc.gov/general/privacy-act-information#matching>.

IV. Accounting

The FCC DIB has no reason to believe that the FCC and its components have not fully adhered to the terms of the matching agreements during this reporting period.

The FCC DIB affirms that all disclosures of agency records for use in the matching program continue to be justified.

The FCC DIB required a favorable cost-benefit ratio for all approved matches. Each matching agreement FCC participated in during 2019 had a favorable cost benefit ratio.

V. Cost-Benefit Waivers

The FCC DIB did not waive the requirement of a cost-benefit analysis for any matching agreement it participated in during 2019.

VI. Disapproval

The FCC DIB did not disapprove any matching agreements in 2019.