

## **Federal Communications Commission** **2020 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 2020.

### **I. Data Integrity Board Members**

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### **II. Data Integrity Board Secretary**

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### **III. Matching Programs**

*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 2020 to enter into 8 new or reestablished, and 11 renewals of, 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 2020, the FCC was engaged in a total of 23 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 2020, the FCC's Data Integrity Board (DIB) reviewed and approved 8 new or reestablished CMAs and 11 renewal CMAs in which the FCC and USAC compared Lifeline program subscriber lists against lists of persons enrolled in qualifying programs, as follows:

1. On January 29, 2020, the DIB conducted a meeting to consider reestablishment of CMAs between the FCC and four non-Federal agencies:
  - Colorado Governor's Office of Information Technology (SNAP and Medicaid).
  - Mississippi Department of Human Services (SNAP).
  - New Mexico Human Services Department (SNAP and Medicaid).
  - Utah Department of Workforce Services (SNAP and Medicaid).

At this meeting the DIB approved the agreements, which verify Lifeline eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in the SNAP and/or Medicaid programs. *See* 85 Fed. Reg. 15170 (March 17, 2020). 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).<sup>1</sup>

2. On March 13, 2020, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider the establishment of a CMA between the FCC and one non-Federal agency:
  - Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (SNAP and Medicaid)

At this meeting the DIB approved this agreement, which verifies Lifeline eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in the SNAP and/or Medicaid programs. *See* 85 Fed. Reg. 28633 (May 13, 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, Lifeline Program, system of records. *See* 82 Fed. Reg. 38686 (Aug. 15, 2017).

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<sup>1</sup> In 2021, the FCC updated this SORN. The new citation is 86 Fed. Reg. 11526 (Feb. 25, 2021).

3. On March 13, 2020, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider 1-year renewals of CMAs between the FCC and four non-Federal agencies:

- Missouri Department of Social Services (SNAP and Medicaid).
- North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SNAP).
- Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (SNAP and Medicaid).
- Tennessee Department of Human Services (SNAP).

At this meeting, the DIB approved these renewals, which verify Lifeline eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in the SNAP and/or Medicaid programs. *See* 83 Fed Reg. 51946 (Oct. 15, 2018). 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 April 10, 2020, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider the CMA between the FCC and one non-Federal agency:

- Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Department of Revenue (SNAP, Medicaid, SSI and Income Verification).

At this meeting the DIB approved this agreement, which verifies Lifeline eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in the SNAP, Medicaid, or SSI programs, or meet the income verification standard. *See* 85 Fed. Reg. 34628 (June 5, 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, Lifeline Program, system of records. *See* 82 Fed. Reg. 38686 (Aug. 15, 2017).

5. On August 5, 2020, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider establishment of CMAs between the FCC and two non-Federal agencies:

- Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Economic Self-Sufficiency (SNAP and Medicaid).
- Minnesota Department of Human Services (SNAP and Medicaid).

At this meeting the DIB approved these agreements, which verify Lifeline eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in the SNAP and/or Medicaid programs. *See* 85 Fed. Reg. 62728 (October 5, 2020). 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).

6. On August 5, 2020, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider 1-year renewals of CMAs between the FCC and four non- Federal agencies:

- Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Family Resources (SNAP and Medicaid).
- Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Division of Family Support (SNAP and Medicaid).
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (SNAP, SSI and Medicaid).
- Puerto Rico Department of the Family (Nutrition Assistance Program PAN).

At this meeting the DIB approved these renewals, which verify Lifeline eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in the PAN, SNAP, SSI and/or Medicaid programs. *See* 84 FR 1725 (February 5, 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).

7. On November 4, 2020, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider 1-year renewals of CMAs between the FCC and two non- Federal agencies:

- Georgia Department of Human Services, Department of Children and Family Services (SNAP)
- Iowa Department of Human Services (SNAP)

At this meeting the DIB approved these agreements, which verify Lifeline eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in the SNAP program. *See* 84 Fed. Reg. 24141 (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).

8. On December 1, 2020, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider a 1-year renewal of a CMA between the FCC and one Federal agency:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

At this meeting, the DIB approved this agreement, 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).

Copies of the FCC's CMAs that are currently operating can be found at:

<https://www.fcc.gov/managing-director/privacy-transparency/privacy-act-information#matching>

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 2020 had a favorable cost benefit ratio.

#### **IV. Cost-Benefit Waivers**

The FCC DIB did not waive the requirement of a cost-benefit analysis for any matching agreement it participated in during 2020.

#### **V. Disapproval**

The FCC DIB did not disapprove any matching agreements in 2020.