

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANNUAL FILING
REQUIREMENTS FOR 2018 PERTAINING
TO THE PROVISIONING OF LIFELINE
UNIVERSAL SERVICE.

CASE NO. 18-1116-TP-COI

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on November 30, 2018

{¶ 1} On February 6, 2012, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Report and Order in *In the Matter of Lifeline and Link-Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link-Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training*, WC Docket No. 11-42, WC Docket No. 03-109, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 12-23 (Lifeline Reform Order), adopting reforms that address waste, fraud, and abuse with regard to the federal Universal Service Fund (USF).

{¶ 2} Included within the FCC's Lifeline Reform Order was a directive for all Lifeline eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) to annually recertify their entire customer base no later than December 31, and to submit aggregated recertification data to the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) by January 31. Additionally, the FCC required ETCs to provide such recertification data to the relevant state commission, where the carrier is subject to state jurisdiction. Lifeline Reform Order at ¶148.

{¶ 3} The FCC in its *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, 4115-4517, 4120, (2016) (2016 Lifeline Modernization Order), adopted rules to change the subscriber eligibility recertification process from once each calendar year to a rolling process based on each subscriber's service initiation date. Specifically, beginning with anniversary dates on July 1, 2017, the rolling recertification process requires subscriber eligibility to be recertified every 12 months following the subscriber's service initiation date. This requirement is codified at 47 C.F.R. 54.410(f).

{¶ 4} Ohio is one of those states where ETCs are subject to state jurisdiction. Therefore, all designated Ohio Lifeline ETCs are reminded of the rolling recertification obligation and the requirement of filing the applicable “Annual Lifeline Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Certification Form” (FCC Form 555) with the FCC and USAC by January 31, 2019. Additionally, such recertification information should be electronically submitted to the Commission Staff at: LLReCert@puc.state.oh.us.

{¶ 5} It is, therefore,

{¶ 6} ORDERED, That all ETCs comply with paragraph 4. It is, further,

{¶ 7} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served via the Commission’s electronic mail Telephone Industry Service List, upon all incumbent local exchange carriers, all competitive local exchange carriers, all providers of telephone toll service, all wireless service providers registered with the Commission, the office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel, the Ohio Telecom Association, and all other interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Jay S. Agranoff

By: Jay S. Agranoff
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/mef

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Case No(s). 18-1116-TP-COI

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry reminding all eligible telecommunications carriers of their rolling recertification obligation and filing requirements electronically filed by Ms. Mary E Fischer on behalf of Jay S. Agranoff, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio