

DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Charter

1. Committee's Official Designation

The official designation of this federal advisory committee is the "Disability Advisory Committee" (DAC or Committee).

2. Authority

The DAC is hereby renewed at the direction of the Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. 2.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities

The mission of the DAC is to make recommendations to the Commission on the full range of disability access topics specified by the Commission and to advise the Commission on ways to facilitate the participation of consumers with disabilities in proceedings before the Commission. In addition, this Committee is intended to provide an effective means for stakeholders with interests in this area, including consumers with disabilities, to exchange ideas, which will in turn enhance the Commission's ability to effectively address disability access issues. Topics to be considered by the DAC, as specified by the Commission, may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Communications Access:
 - Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) (Section 225 of the Communications Act of 1934 (Communications Act));
 - Telecommunications Services and Equipment (Section 255 of the Communications Act);
 - Advanced Communications Services and Equipment (Sections 716 and 718 of the Communications Act);
 - Hearing Aid Compatibility (Section 710 of the Communications Act);
 - Access to Telephone Emergency Services (9-1-1) (Section 106 of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act);
 - National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (Section 719 of the Communications Act).

- Video Programming Access:
 - Video Description (Sections 303(u), (z), and 713 of the Communications Act);
 - Closed Captioning (Sections 303(u), (z), and 713 of the Communications Act);
 - Access to Televised Emergency Information (Sections 303(u), (z), and 713 of the Communications Act);
 - Accessible User Interfaces on Video Programming Apparatus/Access to Program Guides and Menus Provided by Navigation Devices (Sections 303(aa) and (bb) of the Communications Act).

4. Description of Duties

In keeping with its advisory role, the duties of the DAC will be to provide recommendations to the Commission on disability access issues as specified by the Commission, gather data and information, and perform those analyses that are necessary to respond to the questions or matters before it.

5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports

Chairwoman, Federal Communications Commission.

6. Support

The Commission will provide the facilities and support staff necessary to conduct meetings of the DAC. DAC members will not be compensated for their services. To ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities, including Committee members and members of the public, the Commission will cover costs associated with the provision of reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities when such costs are directly associated with the conduct of the DAC's meetings, or are directly associated with the conduct of subcommittee meetings. Some examples of reasonable accommodations include sign language interpreters either on-site for in-person meetings or virtually for meetings conducted via video conferencing, meeting agendas produced in Braille and other accessible formats, and computer assisted real-time transcription services (CART).

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years

Annual operating costs associated with supporting the DAC's functions are estimated to be \$275,000, which includes Commission staff time equivalent to 2.25 FTEs.

8. Designated Federal Officer

Full-time or permanent part-time employees, appointed by the Chairwoman of the Commission, will serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO). The DFO will approve or call all DAC and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all DAC and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Chairwoman.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings

The DAC shall meet approximately three times per year.

10. Duration

The Commission will review the accomplishments and activities of the DAC to determine if, after two years, this charter should be renewed and whether the DAC should continue as a Federal Advisory Committee.

11. Termination

The DAC shall terminate two (2) years from the renewal date of this charter, unless renewed prior to the termination date.

12. Membership and Designation

There shall be approximately 39 members of the DAC, who shall be appointed by the Chairwoman of the Commission in consultation with appropriate Commission staff. Members will be appointed either as Representatives or as Special Government Employees, as necessary. Members will represent a wide variety of entities with interests in disability access issues that are within the purview of the Commission. Members will include representatives of organizations and other entities representing people with disabilities, which may include people who are blind or visually impaired, people who are deaf or hard of hearing, people with cognitive disabilities, people with multiple disabilities, including those who are deafblind, and people with speech disabilities. Members may also include representatives of state or local governments and industry and, if serving as Special Government Employees, individuals with significant expertise regarding the issues to be addressed by the DAC. Members may also include ex officio, non-voting federal government representatives. Together, these members will be selected to represent a balance of viewpoints that are necessary to effectively address the issues to be considered by the DAC. Members should be prepared to attend at least three meetings per year of the DAC and are also expected to participate regularly in the deliberations of at least one subcommittee. Members will have an initial and continuing obligation to disclose any interests

in, or connections to, persons or entities who are or will be regulated by, or who have interests before, the Commission.

13. Subcommittees

The Commission may create subcommittees. Subcommittee appointments may include members of the DAC, and may also include members (appointed to serve either in a representative capacity or as a Special Government Employee) who are not members of the DAC. Subcommittee members will have voting privileges within any subcommittee to which they are assigned, unless otherwise specified at the time of appointment, as may be the case for any Ex-Officio members, but will not have voting privileges at plenary meetings of the DAC unless they are also members of the DAC. It is further anticipated that the work of subcommittees will be conducted primarily through videoconferencing, telephone calls, and e-mail correspondence.. Subcommittee recommendations must be reported to the DAC as a whole and may not be treated as recommendations of the DAC unless, and until, ratified by the full DAC (either as proposed or with modifications). Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Commission. Approved DAC recommendations shall be reported to the Chairwoman of the Commission.

14. Recordkeeping

Records of the proceedings will be preserved as required by applicable laws and regulations. All records of the DAC, and its subcommittees and subgroups, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2, or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

15. Filing Date

December 14, 2022