

DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Charter

1. Advisory 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 amended at the direction of the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) as amended, 5 U.S.C. ch. 10.

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 solely advisory role, the duties of the DAC will be to provide recommendations to the Commission on disability access issues as specified by the Commission after reviewing data and information, and performing those analyses that are necessary to respond to the questions or matters before it.

5. Agency or Federal Officer Receiving the Advisory Committee's Advice/Recommendations

Chair, Federal Communications Commission.

6. Support

The Disability Rights Office in the Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau 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 \$385,000, which includes Commission staff time equivalent to 1.80 FTEs.

8. Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

Full-time or permanent part-time employees, appointed by the Chair of the Commission, will serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO). The DFO and DDFO must:

- A. Ensure their advisory committee activities comply with the FACA, FACA Final Rule, FCC's administrative procedures, and any other applicable laws and regulations;
- B. Approve or call all meetings of the advisory committee or subcommittee;
- C. Approve the agenda;
- D. Attend all advisory committee and subcommittee meetings for their duration;
- E. Fulfill the requirements under 5 U.S.C. 1009(b);
- F. Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines it to be in the public interest;
- G. Chair any meeting when so directed by the agency head;
- H. Maintain information on advisory committee activities and provide such information to the public, as applicable; and
- I. Ensure advisory committee members and subcommittee members, as applicable, receive the appropriate training (*e.g.*, FACA overview, ethics training) for efficient operation and compliance with the FACA and FACA Final Rule.

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

Unless renewed by appropriate action, the DAC will terminate two (2) years from the filing date of this charter.

12. Membership and Designation

There shall be approximately 40 members of the DAC, who shall be appointed by and serve at the discretion of the Chair of the Commission in consultation with appropriate Commission staff. The FCC Chair will also select the Committee Co-Chairs from the members. Members will be appointed either as Representatives or as Special Government Employees, as appropriate. 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 Regular Government Employees from federal agencies, including ex officio appointments. 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. Membership details are included in the Committee's Membership Balance Plan.

13. Subcommittees

The FCC Chair may create subcommittees and appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittee appointments may include members of the DAC and may also include members who are not members of the DAC and who are appointed to serve on the subcommittee in a representative capacity as Representative members, as Special Government Employees, or as Regular Government Employees from federal agencies (including ex officio appointments). 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 or any other Federal officer.

14. Recordkeeping

The records of the DAC and its subcommittees shall be handled in accordance with the 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

January 13, 2025

Amendment Date: February 12, 2025