RENEWAL OF COMPUTER MATCHING AGREEMENT BETWEEN WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY, AND THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Verification of Eligibility of Lifeline Program and Affordable Connectivity Program Subscribers

The Privacy Act of 1974, as amended by the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, provides that a matching agreement shall remain in effect only for such period, not to exceed eighteen (18) months, as the Data Integrity Board of the agency determines is appropriate.

Within three (3) months prior to the expiration of such an agreement, the Data Integrity Board of the agency may, without additional review, renew the matching agreement for a current, ongoing matching program for not more than one (1) year if: (i) such program will be conducted without any change; and (ii) each party to the agreement certifies to the board in writing that the program has been conducted in compliance with the agreement. 5 U.S.C. § 552a(o)(2)(D).

The following meets the conditions for renewal.

I. TITLE OF THE MATCHING PROGRAM: Lifeline and Other Federal Connectivity Benefit Programs Computer Matching Agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Wisconsin Department of Revenue

II. RECIPIENT AGENCIES: Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)

III. SOURCE AGENCIES: Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR)

IV. PURPOSE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE MATCHING PROGRAM

The purpose of this matching agreement is to provide the FCC's Lifeline program and Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), as administered by USAC, with information about whether an individual participates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Medicaid, and through verification of household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (Income Verification). Since participation in such programs makes individuals eligible for the Lifeline program, 47 C.F.R. § 54.409(a)(2), and/or the ACP, 47 C.F.R. § 54.1800(j), the automated matching undertaken through this agreement is a cost-effective and efficient way to verify that an individual may receive the benefits of these programs.¹

¹ On February 8, 2024, the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau froze new applications and enrollments into the ACP, due to projections of the depletion of remaining funds and the lack of immediate additional funding from Congress for the program. *See Affordable Connectivity Program*, WC Docket No. 21-450, Order, DA 24-23, at 8, para. 21 (WCB Jan. 11, 2024) (available at: <u>https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-24-23A1.pdf</u>).

Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the FCC to establish federal universal support mechanisms, including the Lifeline program for low-income consumers. 47 U.S.C. § 254(b). The FCC has appointed USAC as the permanent Administrator of the federal Universal Service Fund support mechanisms, including the Lifeline program. 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.701-717. Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260, 134 Stat. 1182, as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58, 135 Stat. 429, and pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the FCC and USAC, USAC administers the ACP. See 47 U.S.C. § 1752(i)(5).

DHS is responsible for the oversight and supervision of SNAP, SSI, and Medicaid eligibility under Chapters 46 and 49 of the Wisconsin Statutes; and Chapters HA 3, DHS 2, 10 and 101 through 109 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code; and Chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code, Federal Register Title 7 Subtitle B Chapter II Subchapter C. DOR is responsible for the oversight and supervision of Income Verification eligibility under § 73.03 of the Wisconsin Statutes and for providing a binary yes/no response only to DHS. DHS maintains the case records and confidential personally identifiable information (PII) of individual applicants and recipients related to these programs.

V. EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF THE MATCHING AGREEMENT

The current effective period of the matching agreement is October 16, 2023 through April 15, 2025.

VI. EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF THE RENEWAL OF THE MATCHING AGREEMENT

Upon execution of the certification by the parties and approval of the Data Integrity Board of the Federal Communications Commission, the effective period is renewed for the period of April 16, 2025 through April 15, 2026.

VII. AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As designated representatives of the agencies participating in the matching program, we certify that: (i) the matching program will be conducted without change; and (ii) the matching program has been conducted in compliance with the current agreement.

A. Source Agencies

B. Recipient Agencies

—signed by: William Hanna

William Hanna Medicaid Director Wisconsin Department of Health Services

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Tim O'Brien Vice President, Lifeline Universal Service Administrative Company

2/13/2025

Date

3/18/25

Date

DocuSianed by:

Susan Dukes Administrator Division of Income, Sales and Excise Tax Wisconsin Department of Revenue Mark Stephens Managing Director Federal Communications Commission

Date

2/12/2025

Date

VIII. DATA INTEGRITY BOARD APPROVAL

On behalf of the Data Integrity Board of the Federal Communications Commission, respectfully, I approve the renewal of the current agreement.

Elliot S. Tarloff Chairperson, Data Integrity Board Federal Communications Commission

Date