

**RENEWAL OF COMPUTER MATCHING AGREEMENT BETWEEN
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,
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 Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

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

III. SOURCE AGENCY: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (PDHS)

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) and Medicaid. 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

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

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: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-24-23A1.pdf>).

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).

PDHS is responsible for the oversight and supervision of SNAP and Medicaid eligibility under 62 P.S. § 201 and 403. PDHS maintains the case records and confidential Personally Identifiable Information of individual applicants and recipients for SNAP and Medicaid and will not release any information from a recipient's case record beyond the binary yes/no response described in section IV.B. of this Agreement, which is consistent with its obligations pursuant to federal SNAP and Medicaid laws governing privacy disclosures to limit disclosures to verifying eligibility in other federal means-tested programs and to get essential services to recipients, 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(7); 7 U.S.C. § 2020(e)(8); 7 C.F.R. § 272.1(c); 42 C.F.R. §§ 431.300-431.307; 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164.

V. EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF THE MATCHING AGREEMENT

The current effective period of the matching agreement is September 13, 2023 through March 12, 2025.

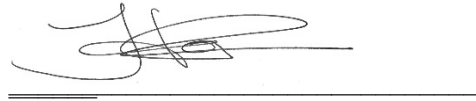
VI. EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF THE RENEWAL OF THE MATCHING AGREEMENT

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 March 13, 2025 through March 12, 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 Agency

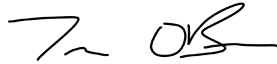


Hoa Pham
Deputy Secretary
Department of Human Services,
Office of Income Maintenance

2/25/2025

Date

B. Recipient Agencies



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

2/27/2025

Date

Mark Stephens
Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission

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