

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and) WC Docket No. 11-42
Modernization)
)

ORDER

Adopted: November 3, 2015

Released: November 3, 2015

By the Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau:

1. In this Order, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) grants the request of the Telecommunications Regulatory Board of Puerto Rico (Board) to participate in the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD).¹ This grant follows a November 30, 2012, Board petition seeking permission initially to opt out of the NLAD,² which in accordance with the *Lifeline Reform Order*, was granted after ninety days.³ One year later, the Board reconsidered its original petition and requested that we instead allow Puerto Rico ETCs to use the NLAD.⁴

2. The Bureau grants the Board’s request and provides Lifeline ETCs in Puerto Rico until January 15, 2016, to load into the NLAD all records associated with households currently subscribing to Lifeline within Puerto Rico. The Bureau directs the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to work with the Board and ETCs to ensure successful integration of the Puerto Rican ETC Lifeline subscriber data into NLAD. In the *Lifeline Reform Order*, the Commission found that in order for the NLAD to serve its intended purpose of, among other things, ensuring that more than one ETC does not seek and receive reimbursement for the same Lifeline subscriber,⁵ ETCs must populate the NLAD with the information necessary to detect duplicative support.⁶ While states had the opportunity to opt-out of the NLAD via a certification process, it would not serve the goal of eliminating duplicative Lifeline support to prevent any such state from changing its decision and participating in the NLAD, i.e., by

¹ See Request of Puerto Rico Telecommunications Board to Withdraw its Opt Out Petition for the National Lifeline Accountability Database, WC Docket No. 11-42 (filed Dec. 18, 2013) (*Puerto Rico Request*).

² See Petition of the Puerto Rico Telecommunications Board to Opt Out of the National Lifeline Accountability Database, WC Docket. Nos. 11-42 et al., CC Docket. No. 96-45 (filed Nov. 30, 2012) (*Puerto Rico Opt Out Petition*).

³ See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 11-42 et al., Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 27 FCC Rcd 6656, 6752, para. 221 (2012) (*Lifeline Reform Order*); *Wireline Competition Bureau Clarifies Minimum Requirements for States Seeking to Opt Out of the National Lifeline Accountability Database*, WC Docket Nos. 11-42 et al., CC Docket No. 96-45, Public Notice, 27 FCC Rcd 12321, 12324 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2012) (*Guidance PN*).

⁴ See *Puerto Rico Request*. The Universal Service Administrative Company, the administrator of the Lifeline program and the NLAD, is now prepared to accept the Puerto Rico Lifeline subscriber data into NLAD.

⁵ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, at 6735, para. 182.

⁶ See *id.* at 6736, para. 184.

loading its Lifeline subscriber data into the NLAD and subsequently utilize the NLAD to eliminate and prevent duplicative Lifeline subscriber support. Therefore, we grant the Board's request.

3. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to the authority delegated in sections 0.91, 0.291, and 54.404 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, 54.404, and in paragraph 221 of FCC 12-11, the request filed by the Telecommunications Regulatory Board of Puerto Rico IS GRANTED as described above.

4. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to section 1.102(b)(1) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.102(b)(1), this Order SHALL BE EFFECTIVE upon release.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Matthew S. DelNero
Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau