

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

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

ORDER

Adopted: August 1, 2017

Released: August 1, 2017

By the Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau:

1. In this Order, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) grants the request of the Vermont Department of Public Service (Department) to participate in the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD).¹ This grant follows a 2012 Department petition seeking permission to opt out of the NLAD,² which the Bureau conditionally granted in 2013.³ In April 2017, the Department reconsidered its original petition and requested that we instead allow Vermont eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) to use the NLAD to reduce the potential for Lifeline subscribers to receive duplicate benefits in another state.⁴

2. The Bureau finds it is in the public interest to allow Vermont ETCs to use the NLAD. In the *2012 Lifeline Reform Order*, the Commission found that 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, ETCs must populate the NLAD with information necessary to detect duplicative support.⁵ While states had the opportunity to opt-out of the NLAD via a certification process, it would not serve the goal of eliminating duplicative support to prevent any such state from subsequently participating in the NLAD by loading its Lifeline subscriber data into the NLAD and preventing duplicative Lifeline subscriber support. Therefore, the Bureau grants the Department’s request and provides Lifeline ETCs in Vermont until November 1, 2017 to load into the NLAD all records associated with each respective ETC’s Lifeline subscribers within Vermont. The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the administrator of the Lifeline Program and the NLAD, is prepared to accept the Vermont Lifeline subscribers into the NLAD and the Bureau directs USAC to work with the Department and ETCs to ensure successful integration of the Vermont ETC Lifeline subscriber data into NLAD.

¹ See Letter from Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Vermont Department for Children & Families, and Daniel C. Burke, Special Counsel, Public Advocacy, Vermont Department for Public Service, to Kris Monteith, then Acting Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, FCC, WC Docket No. 11-42 (filed Apr. 10, 2017) (*Vermont Request*).

² See Petition and Certification of the Vermont Department of Public Service to Opt-Out of the National Lifeline Database and Petition for Waiver of § 54.410, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al. (filed Nov. 19, 2012). See also Amendment to Petition and Certification of the Vermont Department of Public Service to Opt-Out of the National Lifeline Database, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al. (filed Feb. 4, 2013); Letter from Tamara Pariseau, Chief of Consumer Affairs & Public Information, Vermont Department of Public Service, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 11-42 (filed Feb. 12, 2013).

³ See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization*, Order, 28 FCC Rcd 1272 (WCB 2013).

⁴ See *Vermont Request* at 1.

⁵ See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 27 FCC Rcd 6656, 6735-36, paras. 182, 184 (2012) (*2012 Lifeline Reform Order*).

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 CFR §§ 0.91, 0.291, 54.404, and the *2012 Lifeline Reform Order*, 27 FCC Rcd 6656, 6752, para. 221, the request filed by the Vermont Department of Public Service, IS GRANTED as described above.

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

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Kris Anne Monteith
Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau