

## **Charter**

### **Consumer/Disability Advisory Committee**

#### **A. The Committee's Official Designation**

The official designation of this federal advisory committee is the "Consumer/Disability Telecommunications Advisory Committee" (CDTAC).

#### **B. The Committee's Objective and Scope of its Activities**

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was intended to pave the way for a new era of greater competition and consumer choice in telecommunications for all Americans. In order to ensure that all Americans, including individuals with disabilities and underserved populations such as tribal nations have equal access to telecommunications products and services, and to facilitate consumer involvement and input into all activities of the Commission, the CDTAC is hereby created pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The purpose of CDTAC is to provide general guidance to the Federal Communications Commission, and to make specific recommendations on issues and questions presented to it through the Consumer Information Bureau of the FCC. Issues or questions referred to the CDTAC will include, but are not limited to the following topic areas:

- Access by People with Disabilities (e.g., telecommunications relay services, video description, captioning, accessible billing, and access to telecommunications products and services).
- Consumer Protection and Education (e.g., cramming, slamming, consumer friendly billing, bundling of services, Lifeline/Linkup programs, customer service, privacy, telemarketing abuses, and outreach to underserved populations).
- Impact of New and Emerging Technologies (e.g., availability of broadband, digital television, cable, satellite, low power FM, and the convergence of these and emerging technologies).
- Enforcement and Consumer Participation in the FCC Rulemaking Process.

### **C. Period of Time Necessary for the Committee to Carry Out its Purpose**

Initially, the CDTAC shall be established for a period of two (2) years from the original charter date, and may be renewed at the appropriate time prior to the date that the charter is to be terminated. Not later than six (6) months prior to the termination date of this charter, the CDTAC shall recommend to the Commission whether this Charter should be renewed.

### **D. Official to Whom the Committee Reports**

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission.

### **E. Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support**

The Federal Communications Commission will provide the facilities and support staff necessary to conduct meetings in Washington, D.C. Committee members will not be compensated for their services. Although the FCC will not pay for travel, meals, lodging, or incidental expenses, the Committee is authorized to seek and receive alternate funding for these items, in order to reimburse individual Committee members who would not otherwise be able to participate because of significant financial hardship. The Commission will, however, pay costs associated with the provision of reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities when such costs are directly associated with the conduct of the Committee's meetings, or are directly associated with the conduct of subcommittee meetings.

### **F. Description of the Duties for Which the Committee is Responsible**

In keeping with its advisory role, the duties of the CDTAC will be to provide general guidance to the Commission, and to gather data and information and to perform those analyses that are necessary to respond to the questions presented to it. In addition, as noted above, not later than six (6) months prior to the termination date of this Charter, the Committee shall recommend to the Commission whether this Charter should be renewed.

### **G. Estimated Annual Operating Costs in Dollars and Staff Years**

Annual operating costs associated with supporting the CDTAC's functions are estimated to be \$226,000, which includes FCC staff time equivalent to 2.25 FTE's.

### **H. Estimated Number and Frequency of Committee Meetings**

The Committee shall meet a minimum of two (2) times per year. The Committee is authorized to facilitate its work through informal subcommittees, which shall report their activities and recommendations to the Committee as a whole. It is anticipated that the work of subcommittees will be conducted through telephone calls, e-mail, listservs, or via an accessible text-only chat room facility. Recommendations of subcommittees must be reported to the CDTAC as a whole, and only as modified or ratified by the committee as

a whole, may such recommendations be included in the official record of the CDTAC's proceedings, and as such reported to the Chairman of the FCC.

#### **I. Committee's Termination Date**

The Committee shall terminate two (2) years from the date of the original charter, unless renewed at the appropriate time prior to the termination date of this charter.

#### **J. Membership**

Members will be representative of both the private and public sectors, and will be selected to balance the expertise and viewpoints that are necessary to address effectively the issues to be referred to the CDTAC. Members will be recognized experts in their fields, including but not limited to, consumer advocacy organizations, organizations representing persons with disabilities, representatives of underserved populations, equipment manufacturers, telecommunications service providers (including wireless), broadcast/cable providers, state/local regulators, and/or other qualified persons serving in their individual capacities. Members should be prepared to attend a minimum of two (2) meetings per year of the CDTAC held in Washington, D.C., and are also expected to participate regularly in the deliberations of subcommittees. Members of the CDTAC shall be appointed by the Chairman of the FCC in consultation with the other Commissioners.

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 FCC.

#### **K. Chairperson**

The Chairperson of the Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the FCC in consultation with the other Commissioners. The Chairperson of any subcommittee shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the CDTAC.

#### **L. Meetings**

Meetings shall be open to the public and timely notice of each meeting shall be published in the Federal Register, and shall be further publicized through other appropriate vehicles. Meetings shall be conducted and records of the proceedings kept, as required by applicable laws and regulations. Meetings of the CDTAC will also be broadcast over the Internet.

#### **M. Date of Original Charter**

November 20, 2000