
Total Annual Burden: 3,670,625 hours.
Total Annual Cost: $1,062,142.

Needs and Uses: On April 5, 2006, the Commission adopted a Report and Order and Third Order on Reconsideration, In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991; Junk Fax Prevention Act of 2005, CG Docket Nos. 02–278 and 05–338, FCC 06–42, which modified the Commission’s facsimile advertising rules to implement the Junk Fax Prevention Act. The Report and Order and Third Order on Reconsideration contained information collection requirements pertaining to: (1) Opt-out Notice and Do-Not-Fax Requests Recordkeeping in which the rules require senders of unsolicited facsimile advertisements to include a notice on the first page of the facsimile that informs the recipient of the ability and means to request that they not receive future unsolicited facsimile advertisements from the sender; (2) Established Business Relationship Recordkeeping whereas the Junk Fax Prevention Act provides that the sender, e.g., a person, business, or a nonprofit/ institution, is prohibited from faxing an unsolicited advertisement to a facsimile machine unless the sender has an “established business relationship” (EBR) with the recipient; (3) Facsimile Number Recordkeeping in which the Junk Fax Prevention Act provides that an EBR alone does not entitle a sender to fax an advertisement to an individual or business. The fax number must also be provided voluntarily by the recipient; and (4) Express Invitation or Permission Recordkeeping where in the absence of an EBR, the sender must obtain the prior express invitation or permission from the consumer before sending the facsimile advertisement.

On October 14, 2008, the Commission released an Order on Reconsideration, FCC 08–239, addressing certain issues raised in petitions for reconsideration and/or clarification filed in response to the Commission’s Report and Order and Third Order on Reconsideration (Junk Fax Order), FCC 06–42. In document FCC 08–239, the Commission clarified that: (1) Facsimile numbers compiled by third parties on behalf of the facsimile sender will be presumed to have been made voluntarily available for public distribution so long as they are obtained from the intended recipient’s own directory, advertisement, or internet site; (2) Reasonable steps to verify that a recipient has agreed to make available a facsimile number for public distribution may include methods other than direct contact with the recipient; and (3) a description of the facsimile sender’s opt-out mechanism on the first web page to which recipients are directed in the opt-out notice satisfies the requirement that such a description appear on the first page of the website.

The Commission believes these clarifications will assist senders of facsimile advertisements in complying with the Commission’s rules in a manner that minimizes regulatory compliance costs while maintaining the protections afforded consumers under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,
Secretary, Office of the Secretary.

[FCC Doc. 2022–04648 Filed 3–3–22; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[FR ID: 74978]

Privacy Act of 1974; Matching Program

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice of a new matching program.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (“Privacy Act”), this document announces a new computer matching program the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission” or “Agency”) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) will conduct with the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration (“Department”) (“Agency”). The purpose of this matching program is to verify the eligibility of applicants to and subscribers of Lifeline, and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), both of which are administered by USAC under the direction of the FCC. More information about these programs is provided in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section below.

DATES: Written comments are due on or before April 4, 2022. This computer matching program will commence on June 1, 2022, and will conclude 18 months after the effective date.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Linda Oliver, FCC, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554, or to Privacy@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Oliver at 202–418–1732 or Privacy@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Lifeline program provides support for discounted broadband and voice services to low-income consumers. Lifeline is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under FCC direction. Consumers qualify for Lifeline through proof of income or participation in a qualifying program, such as Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Federal Public Housing Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit, or various Tribal-specific federal assistance programs.

In the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116–260, 134 Stat. 1182, 1238–44 (2020) (codified at 47 U.S.C. 1751–52), Congress created the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, and directed use of the National Verifier to determine eligibility based on various criteria, including the qualifications for Lifeline (Medicaid, SNAP, etc.). EBBP provided $3.2 billion in monthly consumer discounts for broadband service and one-time provider reimbursement for a connected device (laptop, desktop computer or tablet). In the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law 117–58, 135 Stat. 429, 1238–44 (2021) (codified at 47 U.S.C. 1751–52), Congress modified and extended EBBP, provided an additional $14.2 billion, and renamed it the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). A household may qualify for the ACP benefit under various criteria, including an individual qualifying for the FCC’s Lifeline program.

In a Report and Order adopted on March 31, 2016, (81 FR 33026, May 24, 2016) (2016 Lifeline Modernization Order), the Commission ordered USAC to create a National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier (“National Verifier”), including the National Lifeline Eligibility Database (LED), that would match data about Lifeline applicants and subscribers with other data sources to verify the eligibility of an applicant or subscriber. The Commission found that the National Verifier would reduce compliance costs for Lifeline service providers, improve service for Lifeline subscribers, and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the program.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 directs the FCC to leverage the
National Verifier to verify applicants’ eligibility for ACP. The purpose of this matching program is to verify the eligibility of Lifeline and ACP applicants and subscribers by determining whether they receive Medicaid or SNAP benefits administered by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration.

Participating Agencies
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration.

Authority for Conducting the Matching Program

Purpose(s)
The purpose of this modified matching agreement is to verify the eligibility of applicants and subscribers to Lifeline, as well as to ACP and other Federal programs that use qualification for Lifeline as an eligibility criterion. This new agreement will permit eligibility verification for the Lifeline program and ACP by checking an applicant’s/subscriber’s participation in Medicaid and SNAP in Washington. Under FCC rules, consumers receiving these benefits qualify for Lifeline discounts and also for ACP benefits.

Categories of Individuals
The categories of individuals whose information is involved in the matching program include, but are not limited to, those individuals who have applied for Lifeline and/or ACP benefits; are currently receiving Lifeline and/or ACP benefits; are individuals who enable another individual in their household to qualify for Lifeline and/or ACP benefits; are minors whose status qualifies a parent or guardian for Lifeline and/or ACP benefits; or are individuals who have received Lifeline and/or ACP benefits.

Categories of Records
The categories of records involved in the matching program include, but are not limited to, the last four digits of the applicant’s Social Security Number, date of birth, and first and last name. The National Verifier will transfer these data elements to the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration, which will respond either “yes” or “no” that the individual is enrolled in a qualifying assistance program: Medicaid or SNAP administered by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration.

System(s) of Records
The records shared as part of this matching program reside in the Lifeline system of records, FCC/WCB–1, Lifeline, which was published in the Federal Register at 86 FR 11526 (Feb. 25, 2021).

The records shared as part of this matching program reside in the ACP system of records, FCC/WCB–3, Affordable Connectivity Program, which was published in the Federal Register at 86 FR 71494 (Dec. 16, 2021). Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch, Secretary.

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting
TIME AND DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Hybrid meeting: 1050 First Street NE, Washington, DC (12th floor) and virtual. Note: Due to the covid–19 pandemic, the FEC’s hearing room remains closed to visitors for the near term as we implement procedures for the public to safely attend. If you would like to access the meeting, see the instructions below.

STATUS: This meeting will be open to the public. To access the virtual meeting, go to the commission’s website www.fec.gov and click on the banner to be taken to the meeting page.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:
Draft Advisory Opinion 2022–01: Joan Farr for U.S. Senate OK and KS.

Revised Form 1.

Reservation: Audit Division Recommendation Memorandum on Mike Braun for Indiana (A19–02).

Management and Administrative Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Judith Ingram, Press Officer, Telephone: (202) 694–1220.