including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and ways to further reduce the information collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees. The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

DATES: Written PRA comments should be submitted on or before May 13, 2022. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all PRA comments to Nicole Ongele, FCC, via email PRA@fcc.gov and to nicoileongele@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information about the information collection, contact Nicole Ongele, (202) 418–2991.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
OMB Control Number: 3060–1297.
Title: COVID–19 Vaccine Attestation Form for Non-paid Employees.
Form No.: FCC Form 5644.
Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.
Respondents: Individuals or households.
Number of Respondents and Responses: 140 respondents and 140 responses.
Estimated Time per Response: 0.25 hours.
Frequency of Response: One-time reporting requirement.
Information will be collected and maintained in a database with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791 et seq.).

Total Annual Burden: 35 hours.
Total Annual Cost: No Cost.
Privacy Act Impact Assessment: Yes. Health information collected about FCC staff and visitors to a FCC facility, which may include immunization and vaccination information, is covered by the FCC’s Systems of Records Notice (SORN) OMD–33, Ensuring Workplace Health and Safety in Response to a Public Health Emergency, posted at https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/sor-fcc-omd–33.pdf. This system is part of the FCC’s ServiceNow platform, which has a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) posted at https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/serviceonow-pia-10292019.pdf.
Nature and Extent of Confidentiality: As Privacy Act-protected records, these records are kept confidential and will not be disclosed except under applicable Privacy Act exceptions, including the routine uses identified in the FCC/OMD–3 SORN.

Needs and Uses: On September 9, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 14043 to protect the health and safety of the Federal workforce and to promote the efficiency of the civil service. Pursuant to the Executive Order and implementing guidance, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) informed its workforce that, other than in limited circumstances where a reasonable accommodation is legally required, all employees needed to be fully vaccinated against COVID–19 by November 22, 2021, regardless of where they are working. To ensure compliance with this mandate, the FCC established a requirement for employees to complete and submit a form attesting to their current vaccination status. Although the vaccination requirement issued pursuant to E.O. 14043 is currently the subject of a nationwide injunction, the FCC will continue to develop and implement health and safety protocols to ensure and maintain the safety of all occupants during standard operations and public health emergencies or similar health and safety incidents, such as the current pandemic, and will continue to request that workers report on their vaccination status. For some special categories of individuals who perform (or will perform) work for the agency but are not considered employees, the FCC is required to obtain OMB approval prior to collecting such information. These include incoming employees, unpaid interns, unpaid legal fellows, individuals performing work for the FCC pursuant to an Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement, participants in advisory committees, and possibly other similar classes of individuals who are not on the FCC payroll but are performing work for the agency.

Federal Communications Commission.
Katura Jackson, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
[FR ID 75965]

Privacy Act of 1974; Matching Program
AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.
ACTION: Notice.
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 South Carolina Department of Social Services (“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 13, 2022. This computer matching program will commence on April 13, 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, 2129–36 (2020) (codified at 47 U.S.C. 1301 nt.), 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 SNAP benefits administered by the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

Participating Agencies

South Carolina Department of Social Services, the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company.

Authority for Conducting the Matching Program


Purpose(s)

The purpose of this new 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 SNAP in South Carolina. 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 last name. The National Verifier will transfer these data elements to the South Carolina Department of Social Services, which will respond either “yes” or “no” that the individual is enrolled in a qualifying assistance program: SNAP administered by the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

System(s) of Records

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