

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Proposed)
Modifications to the Missouri)
Universal Service Fund) **Case No. TO-2019-0346**

STAFF'S NOTICE

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its *Notice* in this matter hereby states:

1. The Commission opened a docket May 15, 2019, to permit Staff to review and make recommendations regarding the Missouri Universal Service Fund (MoUSF). The Commission ultimately ordered to suspend the MoUSF fund assessment and to increase the support amount provided to Lifeline members receiving voice-only services in its *Order* issued November 21, 2019. Staff previously provided its updated recommendations based on the current environment and pending Federal Communications Commission (FCC) actions, on October 6, 2020 and November 25, 2020. Staff now presents its findings in order to seek feedback based on its most recent review of the MoUSF.

2. Staff's Memorandum attached here as Appendix A outlines its findings. Staff from its review would recommend continuing the suspension of the MoUSF assessment through September 30, 2022. Additionally, Staff would propose that the MoUSF support amount for Lifeline voice-only services should be increased by \$5.25 from \$18.75 to \$24.00 if the FCC continues with its plan to eliminate support on December 1, 2021. Finally, Staff would propose that the

companies should be given flexibility to implement this support level change any time from December 1, 2021 through February 1, 2022. Staff would also ask that the Commission direct Staff to review and provide updated financial information and a finalized assessment recommendation by June 1, 2022.

3. Staff recommends that the Commission should immediately solicit feedback from interested parties based on Staff's findings and set an early October 2021 deadline for this feedback. In this regard, the Missouri USF Board may consider Staff's recommendations and any comments filed into this docket at the next Missouri USF Board meeting. The next Missouri USF Board meeting has not yet been scheduled but is anticipated to occur sometime during the month of October 2021. Staff provides *Notice* in this docket so that feedback may be solicited.

WHEREFORE, Staff prays that the Commission will accept its *Notice*; and solicit feedback from interested stakeholders to be provided to the Commission by October 1, 2021; and grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

/s/ Whitney Payne

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 2nd day of September, 2021, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Whitney Payne